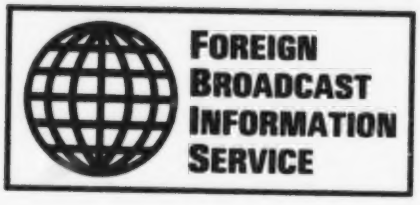

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Near East & South Asia

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LD031428 [Editorial Report]

Comment on U.S. Policy

The latest U.S. veto of a draft Security Council resolution on the Arab-Israeli conflict "does not help" resolve the issue and "it would have been preferable" if the United States had abstained, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak stated in remarks to journalists in Paris broadcast by Cairo radio. Regarding U.S. diplomatic activity, Mubarak noted that U.S. envoy Philip Habib had conveyed "some ideas" to Jordan's King Husayn, adding that he believes the United States will also send an envoy to Syria "because the international conference must gather all the parties, including Syria." According to French sources cited by KUNA, Mubarak told French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac during their recent talks that the U.S. Administration is "foot-dragging" on a peace settlement in the Middle East.

The Jordanian paper AL-DUSTUR questioned whether the United States is serious about helping solve the Arab-Israeli conflict and asserted that the latest U.S. "plan" is a clear attempt to circumvent UN Security Council resolutions and defuse the Palestinian "uprising." The paper said the Arabs should not listen to the U.S. proposals, which are part of a "conspiracy" reflecting "an extremist Zionist stand."

In Syria, Damascus radio said the U.S. veto at the Security Council is proof that "wagering on a balanced U.S. position or a U.S. solution to the conflict is only an illusive mirage." The commentary regarded the veto as an indication of U.S. support for Israel's "iron-fisted" policy and "brutal practices." The Iranian Foreign Ministry likewise denounced the veto in a statement cited by IRNA, asserting that this should make it clear to Muslim states which have tied their interests to the United States that the latter will "never abandon its support for the criminal Zionist regime."

For the PLO's part, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio viewed Philip Habib's reappearance in the region as evidence of an escalating "U.S.-Zionist plot," in which "some Arab sides are involved," aimed against the Palestinian people and the PLO.

Israel

Political Developments—Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein has left "secretly" for Paris, where Jordan's King Husayn is currently visiting, Jerusalem radio reported 3 February. On U.S. moves to promote the peace process, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said the United States is merely examining "ideas and slivers of plans," but there are no negotiations on a new peace plan.

Deputy Prime Minister David Levi had earlier told Jewish settlement leaders that Israel must make it clear to the United States that its presence in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is not temporary and it will not withdraw from these areas, according to Jerusalem radio. Anyone who seeks peace in the transfer of territories to Jordan is not part of the "national camp," he asserted. A HADASHOT editorial asserted that the "looming shadow" cast by Levi and minister Ari'el Sharon will prevent Prime Minister Shamir from displaying any political flexibility.

Disturbances—Jerusalem radio reported further disturbances on the West Bank 3 February, including stone-throwing attacks on Israeli vehicles and incidents near Hebron and Ramallah in which five Arabs were injured by IDF fire. An Arab woman died in a hospital from injuries caused by IDF fire 1 February.

Iraqi-Syrian Relations

A statement by an "official Syrian source" broadcast by Damascus radio 3 February characterized Iraq's recent "frenzied" media campaign as an attempt to divert Arab and international attention from the Palestinian struggle and raise tension in the Gulf region. The statement maintained that it is Iraq and not Syria that has disrupted pan-Arab security by involving itself in a conflict that "contradicts" the Arabs' "major conflict" with Israel. Syria's relations with Iran do not represent a "disavowal" of the Amman summit, the statement insisted, emphasizing that Syria will not be "dragged into marginal battles and media vituperations," particularly at a time when a "better Arab atmosphere" is needed to support the Palestinian "uprising" and confront Israel.

Iraqi-Soviet Relations

Talks between visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Soviet Premier Nikolay Ryzhkov centered on bilateral relations, the Iran-Iraq war, and international issues, INA reported. TASS added that the two sides expressed "mutual satisfaction" with the state of their relations. 'Aziz also met with his Soviet counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze, INA noted.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian gunboats attacked and set ablaze a Norwegian tanker in the southern Gulf 3 February, according to AFP. The report also said that Iranian warplanes fired a missile at a Liberian-flagged tanker the previous day but missed their target. Tehran radio reported only the gunboat attack, saying it was carried out by "speedboats."

In ground action, an Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio announced that 156 Iranians were killed in I Army Corps northern sector clashes.

Lebanon

Assassinated Frenchman—The French Defense Ministry confirmed that the Frenchman assassinated in East Beirut 2 February was an agent of France's General Directorate for External Security (DGSE), Paris radio reported. While the radio said he was shot after leaving the office of the head of Lebanon's Public Security General Directorate, Voice of Lebanon radio subsequently broadcast a statement by the Directorate denying that the Frenchman met with any of its officials the day of his assassination.

The assassination was "rejected and condemned" in an LF Command Council statement carried by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. The LF contended that the killing was the work of terrorists from the "occupied areas" of Lebanon and was intended both to disturb security in "the free eastern area" and to induce French nationals to leave Lebanon. Meanwhile, the French ambassador told Voice of Lebanon radio that he believes French nationals in all parts of Lebanon are in jeopardy.

Abu Nidal Hostages—Abu Nidal's Fatah Revolutionary Council distributed a video cassette in Beirut showing three of the Belgian and French hostages whom it seized last November, the Voice of Lebanon reported. Despite earlier speculation that two children would be released, their mother stated in the taped message that she refuses to be separated from her two daughters. One of the other hostages spoke of having been in contact with Israel's Mosad.

Syrian-Omani Relations

A decree issued by Omani Sultan Qabas ibn Sa'id announced that the sultanate plans to open an embassy in Syria, Muscat radio reported.

Moroccan-Tunisian Talks

Visiting Moroccan Prime Minister Azzedine Laraki was received by Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Tunis radio reported. The prime minister stressed the "intensive" nature of the talks during his visit, which concerned bilateral, regional, and Arab and Islamic issues. Laraki also indicated his country's readiness to enter negotiations with Tunisia, Algeria, Mauritania, and Libya, without preconditions, for the establishment of Maghreb unity.

Libya

A People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison statement transmitted by JANA denied reports of the presence of Libyan troops in Sudan and the occurrence of incursions into Chad, dismissing them as "lies fabricated and spread by Ndjamena."

Sudan

In a press conference reported by SUNA, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced that the armed forces have established an air bridge between Khartoum and Juba to transport troops and equipment to the region in anticipation of efforts to retake Kapoeta from the rebels. The prime minister rejected reports that three other Equatoria Region towns had fallen to the rebels, saying "no other town than Kapoeta" has been captured.

Afghanistan

"Intense fighting" in the north has led to the closure of the Salang Highway, Kabul's main overland link with the Soviet Union, AFP cited Western diplomats as saying. The report added that the mujahidin inflicted "heavy" losses on the Soviet forces in the fighting, as well as capturing two military posts in neighboring Faryab Province.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Attempts To Forge Maghreb Union

LD011946 Paris Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche, with whom Farida Moha was able to meet over the weekend, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi recently had a document circulated in all of the Maghreb countries advocating the union, indeed the amalgamation, of those countries within a Maghreb entity. Here are the details from Farida Moha, who has just returned from Tunisia:

[Begin recording] A document dealing with the union of Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya was circulated recently, in December to be more exact, by Col al-Qadhdhafi to King Hassan II [of Morocco] and [Algerian] President Chadli Bendjedid, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche has reported. The document, which serves as a counterbalance to the treaty of concord and fraternity signed under the aegis of Algeria in 1983, will represent the major topic of the discussions between Mr Laraki and his Tunisian counterpart. These discussions will be followed by those of [Tunisian] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali with Col al-Qadhdhafi, who is due to go to Tunis in the next few days, according to Mr Baccouche.

Stating that there can be no Maghreb without Morocco, the head of the Tunisian Government also stressed the urgency of a solution to the Saharan conflict which, according to him, is a product of psychological antagonism and a lack of trust between Morocco and Algeria, a mistrust that strongly threatens the Maghreb, which is currently under great pressure. Tunisia, which is very active in inter-Maghreb mediation [words indistinct] in its relations to strengthen its ties with Morocco and Libya.

Still within the Maghreb framework, it has been learned that in the next few days, an ambassador close to the entourage of King Hassan II will be appointed to Tripoli, Libya, which still considers itself united with Morocco by the Arab-African agreement. [end recording]

KUNA Cites Initial Reactions to Habib 'Plan'

LD021734 Kuwait KUNA in English 1553 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, Feb 2 (KUNA)—The bare-bones of a three-phased peace-plan by the Reagan administration has emerged in Washington Tuesday, according to administration officials and Arab diplomatic sources.

The plan, as compiled by KUNA from these various sources, appears to be a slightly modified version of the Camp David agreement and seems to be focused in its first phase on the occupied West Bank.

But initial reports from Jordanian diplomats show that at least for now the plan has been turned down by King Husayn of Jordan, who was briefed by special U.S. Presidential envoy Philip Habib on Saturday.

Habib, who is back in Washington and is expected to brief President Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz later today, carried the combined American and Egyptian ideas to the monarch, but one Jordanian diplomat said here Tuesday the king believes the ideas are simply a watered-down version of the 1979 Camp David II agreement, which have already been rejected by the Arab countries. That partly explains why the Israelis seem to back the new American ideas, the diplomat said.

The new ideas, which still remain vague, seem to focus on three steps:

—Phase One: Quick elections for a local Palestinian leadership with a limited governing autonomy on the West Bank. Israel will allow the elections and will not interfere in them. The U.S. is thinking of holding these elections within the coming three months.

—Phase Two: Convening of an international conference before the end of this year despite U.S. and Israeli involvement in elections this year. The U.S. is hoping the peace process will become an issue in the Israeli elections and that the Israelis will vote in favor of it. But the conference as envisioned by Washington is to be ceremonial in its opening form that will immediately lead to face-to-face negotiations after a day or two.

A strong argument in favor of the international conference was interestingly recently outlined by Philip Habib at a Washington seminar. He said that the U.S. should have nothing to fear from such a conference and he urged the Reagan administration to adopt it strongly and with conviction. His views have reportedly influenced administration thinking, according to one State Department insider. They also influenced his appointment in the current intensive diplomatic activity.

—Phase Three: Final agreement to be reached on a comprehensive settlement that will result from these face-to-face negotiations. The final session of the international conference will simply bless and guarantee the implementation of the agreement with no interference by any superpower in the final outcome. There will be no veto power on the outcome by any outside party.

American officials admit that these ideas are still in the initial phase of being formulated, and their implementation will have to depend to a great extent on the reaction of the various parties.

They admit that great difficulties still lie ahead, noting that any plan usually accepted by the Israelis is immediately rejected by the Arabs and the Palestinians and vice-versa.

They also admit that two key technical points that have blocked all previous efforts to arrange the peace talks still remain to be solved: the composition of the Palestinian representatives and the form of a peace process. These are some of the issues that Habib, a skilled negotiator, discussed with King Husayn over the weekend, the official said.

Secretary Shultz discussed these ideas with President Mubarak last week and he also sounded out the opinion of two Palestinian West Bank leaders, Hanna Sinyurah and Fayez Abu Rahmah, who were in Washington last week also.

Shultz's private executive assitant, Charles Hill, a senior diplomat who had been stationed in Israel in the past, discussed some of these ideas with Eli Rubenstein, the Israeli cabinet secretary. And on Sunday, Hill briefed Nimrod Novick, a senior adviser to Shi'mon Peres, the Israeli foreign minister.

Asked on Monday if the administration was proposing an accelerated version of the process envisioned in the Camp David accords, Charles Redman, the State Department spokesman, was noncommital in his answer, saying, "What is needed now is a blending of the best of the past to the present."

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Spokesman Rejects 'New U.S. Initiative'

JN021513 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1500 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The PLO spokesman has asserted that the PLO opposes the new U.S. initiative to hold separate agreement [ittifaq] as proposed by Philip Habib. The spokesman added that the Palestinian people will preempt all unjust solutions and will continue their uprising to wrest the right of self-determination with their stones and bare hands.

Habib Visit To Reinforce 'U.S.-Zionist Plot'

JN021848 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1622 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "Philip Habib Appears Again"]

[Text] The uprising of our Palestinian people is continuing and escalating against the Zionist existence and its occupation forces. The enemy authorities have failed to stop this blessed uprising by our rebellious people. They have also admitted that the Palestinian uprising covers all the occupied homeland, as well as all of the Palestinian people's factions and classes: students, workers, farmers, merchants, and employees. Everybody, men, women, and children, are participating in the uprising. The Zionist enemy leaders have admitted that the PLO is leading the uprising inside the occupied homeland through its leadership there. The entire world supports this uprising by our masses in the occupied homeland and calls for the need to achieve a settlement of the Palestine question through an international peace conference. Such a conference should enable the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their own independent state on their national soil, Palestine, under the banner of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Despite this, plots and intrigues are being concocted by certain Arab countries against the Palestine question, the PLO, and the uprising in order to foil this uprising, to pull the carpet from under the Palestinian people and the PLO, their legitimate representative, and to impose solutions that will give nothing to the Palestinian people, solutions such as the suspect autonomy rule calling for the recognition of Resolution 242 being insisted on by some Arab regimes. As part of the plotting against our people and their cause, revolution, and uprising, the U.S. Administration sent the ill-reputed Philip Habib to reinforce the U.S.-Zionist plot, in which certain Arab entities are involved, against our people and their cause, demands, and legitimate rights. At this time, Zionist enemy Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has announced that he is ready to hold negotiations with Jordan on making amendments to and changes in the Camp David accords pertaining to autonomy rule. At the same time, Shamir voices rejection of an international conference, which he has described as a procedural framework that will not lead to a solution to the Middle East issues.

With the appearance of Habib in the region again, the plot has escalated against the Palestinian people, their cause, and the PLO, their leader. The Arab foreign ministers who recently held a conference to support the uprising did not extend considerable support to the fund established by the PLO for that purpose. At the same time, some Arabs are trying to exploit the uprising in their favor and that of their conspiratorial projects, thus leaving our masses in the occupied territories to wage a battle against the Zionist occupation with stones, sticks, fists, and strong will.

O brothers, our Palestinian masses inside and outside the occupied homeland, who have been fully aware of the U.S. Administration's policy throughout their years of struggle, reiterate their rejection of the liquidationist U.S.-Zionist plans. At the same time, these rebelling masses also reject any attempt to foil their uprising, revolution, and leadership. They stress their adherence to the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, by their daily struggle and chants in the face of the occupation authorities and by raising Palestinian flags and the pictures of the leader of this march and revolution. They affirm that there is no choice for the U.S. Administration, its envoy Philip Habib, and the U.S.-Zionist supporters but to recognize our people's right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital under the banner of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

PFLP's Habash Denounces U.S. Veto in UN

JN030624 Damscus Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] In Damascus, the PFLP has denounced Washington's stands against and hostility toward the Palestinian people and their national cause.

In a statement yesterday on the U.S. Administration's veto at the UN Security Council against a draft resolution calling on Israel to abide by the Geneva Conventions and to respect the Palestinian people's basic rights, PFLP Secretary General George Habash said: The U.S. stand once again reveals the U.S. Administration's total disdain for the will of the international community. At the same time, this stand encourages the Israeli leaders to carry out more bestial and barbaric actions against the Palestinian people.

People Urged To Apprise UN, Media of Situation

JN030744 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in English 1650 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Today those living in Palestine and other Arab states, thanks to those of you who objected and demonstrated against the Zionist force. [sentence as heard] Thanks to those of you who weren't silent, who sent telegrams to their governments to express opposition to the new Nazis, the Zionist military establishment which is supported by the United States. For the past 50 days, the army has surrounded women, children, old people, and refugee camps. What can we do about it? We would like to suggest the following: Firstly [words indistinct] of your respected embassy in each Arab capital to send a telegram to the secretary general of the United Nations expressing your feelings. Your appeal should be heard. And secondly, copy to correspondents should be distributed through the media, and hence the world will appreciate your views about the current situation.

[Words indistinct] who are listening, use your voice against evil. Raise your voice against oppression. Raise your voice against racism. Raise your voice against neo-Nazism as represented by the Zionists. Thank you for your efforts.

Fatah Central Committee Concludes Session

JN012013 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] With the brother leader, Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], in attendance, the Central Committee of the Fatah Movement last night concluded the meetings it began in Tunis on 31 January. The Central Committee discussed the dangerous and difficult conditions being experienced by our unarmed, defenseless Palestinian people in our occupied land. With vigor and pride they are continuing the waves of their courageous uprising against the Zionist occupation army, which is equipped with the most up-to-date and deadliest U.S. weapons.

The Central Committee of the Fatah Movement passed numerous resolutions and recommendations on the permanence of this spectacular uprising, as well as ways to escalate the march of our people and their continuing struggle until occupation is defeated and a PLO-led independent Palestinian state established.

Algeria

Bendjedid Comments on Domestic, Foreign Policy

LD020334 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN party, recently gave an interview to Paris-based correspondents from a number of foreign newspapers. Here are glimpses from this interview, which was published by the Montreal, Canada, newspaper LA PRESSE on 30 January.

In this interview the head of state dealt with the reforms the country has started to implement, the efforts being made to build the great Arab Maghreb, and other axes of Algerian foreign policy, particularly Algeria's cooperation with Canada.

With regard to the economic reforms which the country has begun to implement, the head of state said: We put the cart before the horse and built heavy industry, all the while neglecting light industry and industry of transformation, not to mention housing. President Chadli Benjedid said: We are now suffering from a huge demographic explosion. Our institutions became overmanned and parasitic, with their heads bigger than their bodies. The president added that now, however, every institution looks after itself and has begun to enjoy autonomy and management in accordance with the criteria of feasibility, not confining itself to implementing instructions that it receives from above, from the planners. Financial support is based mainly on the efficiency of the banking system in mobilizing savings, and in this way parasitic activities will be eliminated by facing the real causes of inflation.

In his interview, the head of state pointed to the intensified contacts with the leaders of the Arab Maghreb countries aimed at building the structure of this region on strong and firm bases.

With regard to relations with Morocco, President Chadli Bendjedid stated: We have continuous contacts with the Moroccans in order to ensure progress in building the great Arab Maghreb. The first priority is the solution of the Western Sahara problem.

With regard to security and peace in the world, the head of state said: Algeria evinces great concern over the disarmament issue and expressed its hope regarding the latest Washington summit in two letters addressed to the two leaders Reagan and Gorbachev, that an atmosphere of detente would prevail in international relations after the signing of the agreement on eliminating medium- and shorter-range missiles.

Algerian-Canadian cooperation was the focus of a question. President Chadli Bendjedid expressed his satisfaction with the development of this cooperation and the level it has reached, embodied through the realization of several projects in the various fields, in particular transport, communications, agriculture, and culture.

In conclusion, journalist (Louis Wiz Netzer), who interviewed the president of the Republic, pointed out that Algeria, with its capacity as a nonaligned country, has in the field of foreign policy excellent relations with the superpowers and makes efforts to have a positive effect on the international arena in order to establish a more equitable and balanced international order.

FLN Politburo Reviews International Issues

LD312256 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1830 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The Politburo of the FLN party met today under the chairmanship of its president and general secretary, Chadli Bendjedid. The Politburo discussed a number of national questions, as well as Algeria's regional and international political activities. The Politburo dealt with the question of preparing for the Third FLN Congress and in this respect named the preparatory National Committee. The Politburo listened to a number of reviews relating to regional and international political questions. It also evaluated the consultation between the countries of the Arab Maghreb, which seek to speed up the march toward building the greater Arab Maghreb according to the initiative of President Chadli Bendjedid in consultation with the political leaderships of the sister countries in the region. In this regard the Politburo discussed the outcome of the two friendly and working visits paid by President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisia and Libya. It also discussed the outcome of the consultation with the political leadership of Mauritania within the same context. The Politburo expressed its deep appreciation of the common political will that emerged from this consultation, giving a qualitative impetus to the process of unionist construction of the greater Arab Maghreb. It also saluted the spirit of responsibility that guides our awareness of the requirements of the hour with regard to this historical work. It hailed the accomplishments already attained within the implementation process of the treaty of fraternity and accord, and the prospects of reinforcing the basis of this treaty as the working framework for the Maghreb unionist movement.

The Politburo called for concentrated efforts to create collective thinking aimed at political coordination and economic integration between the member states within a comprehensive Maghreb perspective.

The Politburo has studied the developments of the Western Sahara conflict, and affirmed anew Algeria's approval and encouragement of the good offices of the current president of the OAU and the UN secretary general, which seek to truly decolonize this land through the implementation of the African-international peace plan.

It also discussed the prevailing situation in the Arab world in light of the escalation of the Palestinian people's resistance in the occupied territories. The Politburo extended the brotherly greetings of the Algerian people to the Palestinian people, paid homage to the souls of the victims of Zionist oppression, and called for the reinforcement of collective Arab action backing the Palestinian people's national rights, including the setting up of an independent state over their homeland and the liberation of the occupied Arab territories. In this respect, the Politburo reaffirmed Algeria's decision to work particularly within the UN Security Council to convene an international conference for peace in the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations and with the full participation of the Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Politburo expressed anew Algeria's concern at the continuation of the conflict between Iraq and Iran, which is a conflict among brothers, and—while affirming Algeria's hope for just and honorable political settlement of the conflict—the Politburo renewed its encouragement for the UN secretary general's efforts to find a peaceful and just settlement to the conflict and to maintain security and stability in the entire region.

The Politburo also discussed the prevailing situation on the African continent and the continuous development of Algeria's consultation and cooperation with the sister African states. In this respect, the Politburo renewed Algeria's commitment to the achievement of the aims and objectives of the OAU and the OAU's work for the completion of Africa's liberation, and to ensure its growth.

Committees Appointed To Prepare Party Congress

LD312231 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
2200 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Chadli Bendjedid, President of the Republic and FLN secretary general, today appointed the National Committee in charge of preparing for the Sixth FLN Congress. In this context, President Chadli Bendjedid stated that the proceedings of the National Committee should be compatible with the spirit of the National Charter and the Constitution, and that they should face up to the requirements of the current phase and future prospects. To this effect, the president of the Republic and FLN secretary general gave directives to the members of the National Committee within the perspective of consolidating and enriching the reforms adopted in the past months in the economic and social fields.

Moreover, the head of state indicated that these proceedings should encompass all economic, social, cultural, organizational, and structural aspects. He also called on the committee to make an objective assessment of the Second 5-Year Plan, particularly in light of the repercussions of the international economic crisis on the economic machinery.

The National Committee members are grouped in two committees, one in charge of development policy and the second in charge of organizational and structural matters. Mohamed Cherif Messaadia has been appointed chairman of the National Committee and Abdelhamid Brahimi as his deputy.

Nourani, Boudraa Meet With Libyan Envoy 31 Jan

LD311725 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic
1330 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Yesterday evening a meeting was held between Brother Abdelmalek Nourani, minister of regional development, urbanism and construction, and the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau in Algiers. During the meeting they reviewed all the completed joint projects in the field of construction and the exchange of expertise in this field.

Another meeting was also held yesterday evening in fraternal Algeria between Brother Faysal Boudraa, minister of heavy industries, and the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau. The meeting discussed all the adopted administrative measures for the implementation of joint projects, the appointment of the boards of governors of these projects, and the exchange of visits between the delegations commissioned to implement the results of the fourth session of the Higher Executive Committee, held in Tripoli last December.

Chad

U.S. Envoys Granted Audience With Habre 1 Feb

AB021219 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The president of the Republic granted an audience to a special adviser to U.S. President Ronald Reagan at 1130 today. For over 3 hours, Herman Cohen, who was accompanied by Kenneth Brown, deputy assistant secretary for African Affairs, and (name indistinct), deputy assistant secretary of defense for international cooperation, reviewed bilateral cooperation with President Hissein Habre. After the meeting, President Reagan's envoy answered questions from the national press. Let us listen to Kenneth Brown, deputy assistant secretary of state for African Affairs, speaking to our Radio Chad reporter:

[Begin recording] As you know, the United States maintains close relations with Chad. This is why we have been sent here to hold consultations with the Chadian authorities. We have been received by the president. We held talks with the president on cooperation, in the fields of security and defense. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Egypt

Further on Mubarak's Multi-National Tour

Congressional Committee Address

JN021142 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
30 Jan 88 p 3

["Text" of President Husni Mubarak's address to the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee; date not given]

[Text] I am pleased to be with you today. I am honored to be among the legislators in the United States, who run their country's affairs. We found the U.S. Congress to be the best assistant in achieving our objectives when we met here 2 and 1/2 years ago. During that period, I met with several Congressmen who had visited Egypt.

I would like to express to you our deep appreciation for your cooperation with and support for us. I am certain that you would like to know that we have begun an extensive program of economic reform in Egypt, and that we are determined to continue implmenting this program strongly and effectively during the coming years. You realize that our economic reform program is not one of economic statistics, but an overall development program that considers all social and political factors. This requires an accurate balance among all factors affecting the implementation of this program. The important thing is that this program should continue in order to achieve the aspired objectives. I have no doubt that you realize the implementation of this program requires your financial support. I know there are differences in viewpoints in your House on extending financial aid to this program. Some of you, including Egypt's friends, believe that this aid is decreasing. Here, I would like to say that we do not need this financial support forever, but for a specific period of time, until we are able to successfully implement this economic program. Part of this financial aid will be allocated to purchasing basic U.S. commodities, which are necessary for the development of the Egyptian industrial and agricultural sectors. We will not use this financial aid to increase government expenditures. In fact, we have decreased government expenditures and increased revenues.

We deal with Israel without sensitivities or restrictions. We have continuous contacts with Israel on all levels. During the past 3 months, I exchanged three messages with Israeli Prime MInister Yitzhaq Shamir. Our foreign minister and the deputy leader of the majority party recently met with him in Israel. On the other hand, we also maintain continuous contact with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. You know that it was not easy for us to keep our ambassador in Israel after the outbreak of violence in the West Bank and Gaza. Despite this, we kept him there, and I did not hesitate to explain this to my brother Arab leaders. It seems that they all agree with our viewpoint and accept this logic.

Some of you have expressed concern over the Egyptian press criticism of Israel. My answer to you is that we have a free press which also attacks the Egyptian Government, and not just the Israeli Government. Despite this, we continuously instruct those in charge of our press to make objective criticism of Israel. I would like to point out that Egypt has several times been a subject of attack and strong criticism by the Israeli news media. Sometimes it is difficult to control human reactions. It would be better not to raise the question of anti-Semitism in Egyptian newspapers. You may find exaggerated criticism of Israel in the Egyptian newspapers. However, talking about anti-Semitism in Egypt is misleading.

I am certain that you are aware of the circumstances we are experiencing in our region these days. The Middle East is experiencing a difficult stage, and this is due to two factors. The first is the continuing Gulf war. I visited all the Gulf states and held talks with their leaders. They expressed appreciation for the U.S. role in securing the freedom of navigation in the Gulf. They also believe that your naval presence in the Gulf is a deterrent force against the Iranian aggression. It was clear through my talks with them that they have no desire to escalate tension with or to provoke Iran. The Gulf leaders are very cautious. Therefore, I do not believe that the U.S. naval presence is threatened in the Gulf. In fact, it serves both the interests of the Gulf states and the United States. The second factor is that the current events in the West Bank and Gaza constitute a warning and a source of concern. The lessons that we can learn from developments are that the current situation cannot be contained, and that no foreign force can impose their will on the parties concerned or interfere in these parties' will to create an atmosphere to pave the way for reaching an agreement on convening the [international] conference. We propose a halt to all forms of violence and repression. Of course, this necessitates action from the two sides.

When I spoke with President Reagan and his associates, I found them willing to reactivate the U.S. role. I would like to say that most people of good will in the Middle East are gratified by the U.S. stand toward the situation in the occupied territories both at the United Nations and in policy statements. The American Jews' objective views in this regard have also come as a positive development, and are similar to what is taking place inside Israel. If we can introduce a meaningful change in this gloomy picture in the months ahead, we will be in a position to check the growth of religious fundamentalism and extremism in general on both sides of the border.

The phenomenon of extremism is a result of frustration and despair, which are also the outcome of serious economic crises and escalating tension. If we act seriously, we will be able to change this situation in the interest of the present and future generations.

Some sides wonder about the form of Palestinian representation at a peace conference. The truth is that there is

a problem in this regard. However, I believe that immediately after reaching an agreement on holding the conference, the Arabs should agree among themselves who their representatives will be. We will maintain contacts with the U.S. Administration and Congress on this vital issue with the objective of coordinating our stands during the coming months.

I am sure that you agree with me that this current year of elections in the United States and Israel must not paralyze our movement because dangers threaten all of us. Thank you.

Emphasizes Economic Ties

NC021712 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 2 Feb 88

["Spotlights on Events" program: 'Abd al-Rahman 'Aql, head of AL-AHRAM's economic desk, on President Mubarak's current tour—read by announcer]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] President Husni Mubarak's tour of Europe and the United States is especially significant and important in terms of economics. Europe and the United States, in particular, have a great effect on the world economy, of which we are part. In recent years, the world's economic developments have reflected this effect on international economic relations. The developing countries have suffered greatly from the imbalanced world economy; the deficits in all developing countries' balance of payments in favor of the developed countries indicate this clearly. The inflexible methods pursued by international organizations, and their conditions for implementating reforms in developing countries might not currently be appropriate to the social developments in those countries.

As usual, President Mubarak is eager to develop cooperative economic relations between Egypt and all countries with which we share common interests. Egypt's economic relations with all European countries require constant review. As far as our trade relations with the United States are concerned, they need to be reviewed more often. Our trade with the U.S. is a one-way process. A third of Egypt's balance of trade deficit is in favor of the United States. Therefore, we must discuss with the U.S. Administration increasing Egypt's share of exports to the United States, encouraging American tourists to come to Egypt, and encouraging U.S. capital to be invested in Egypt, given the many advantages made available by Egypt's investment law.

Arrives in France for Talks

For reportage on President Muhamad Husni Mubarak's visit to France, including his talks with President Francois Mitterrand, and discussions on a possible Middle East peace conference, see the France section of the 2 February West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

'Ubayd Explains Military Debts, Talks in U.S.

NC020746 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs, minister of state for administrative development, and member of the delegation accompanying President Husni Mubarak on his current European visit, has emphasized that the subject of military debts was not raised at all during President Mubarak's talks with senior U.S. Administration officials.

In a statement to AL-AHRAM to be published tomorrow, Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd said that the debts issue was never raised because the U.S. Congress issued a law 1 month ago allowing commercial banks to settle military debts on behalf of the debtor states, which basically are Egypt, Israel, and Turkey.

Because military loans carry high interest rates and the current market interest rate is low, this means that a country can have the banks turn high-interest loans into other low-interest loans and thereby settle its debts at a low rate.

Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd said that according to this law, a government debt can be turned into a debt to the commercial banks with U.S. Government guarantee. He went on to say that although the law has already been issued, the internal statutes which actually outline the method of implementation will be issued within 90 days. The U.S. Treasury Department is currently preparing these statutes, and once they are ready, Egypt will study them to see whether they are to its benefit or not.

Dr 'Ubayd said that the interest rate on military debts ranges between 11 and 12%, whereas the world market rate of interest ranges between 8% and 9%. Thus, the difference is really very great.

He also said that when the members of the delegation accompanying President Mubarak held meetings with U.S. Administration officials, whether the Treasury secretary or the director of AID, the way was paved to reach an understanding on the Egyptian requests; these included one for greater flexibility in the utilization of the economic aid so as to employ the larger part of this aid to bolster the balance of payments or to purchase [words indistinct] priority commodities to operate factories and farms.

Dr 'Ubayd added that the U.S. Administration immediately responded and allocated $500 million for this purpose. It also accepted to export an electricity generating plant valued at $150 million in case the water level [at the High Dam] drops in June.

Dr 'Ubayd said that the U.S. Administration also responded to the request for cooperation in the field of transferring technology to worksites, but not at the research level.

Daily Urges Reagan To Act Before End of Term

JN021150 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
31 Jan 88 p 5

[Editorial: "A Last Opportunity for President Reagan"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak was clear, frank, and precise in his Washington talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz. He emphasized that nobody could accept or remain silent toward the savage acts of violence to which the Arab people in the holy land are being exposed. By his honesty and sincerity in presenting the Palestine question, the Egyptian president managed to obtain an official statement from Washington supporting the need to stop violence in the occupied territories, provide security and peace for the Palestinian people on their land, and create a propitious atmosphere for the resumption of peace efforts.

President Reagan pledged that the United States would help adopt effective steps to end the Middle East conflict and establish peace. Meanwhile, President Mubarak and George Shultz discussed the role the United States and Egypt could play to put an end to the acts of violence and coercion in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and to expedite the resumption of peace talks and end tension. Mubarak's meeting with senior intellectuals, writers, and leaders of American Jews was a good opportunity to explain the broad lines of the initiative he declared on the eve of his trip to the Western capitals—an initiative aimed at breaking the stalemate and reactivating efforts to establish peace in this vital area.

There is no doubt that President Mubarak's White House talks have given U.S. President Reagan an important opportunity before he steps down at the end of this year to restore to the United States the bright image it enjoyed following World War I after President Wilson had declared his famous initiative that his country would side with right, justice, and freedom of all world nations.

President Reagan has devoted his years in power since the 1980's to boosting the United States' military might and to restoring its prestige in the international arena. He also raised strong slogans in defense of human rights everywhere on this earth. Reagan can end his tenure with a historic accomplishment that will immortalize his name alongside such great American Presidents as Lincoln, Washington, Roosevelt, and Eisenhower once he, inspired only by his conscience, moves to regain the Palestinian people's usurped rights and end many years of pain and suffering these oppressed people have endured.

It is the last opportunity for Reagan to restore the image of the United States, the partisan of justice, freedom, and human rights, and to reaffirm the meaning of the torch of liberty which is held high in New York harbor. Will the U.S. President seize it?

Ghali Terms U.S. Veto at UN 'Negative Stance'

NC021500 Cairo MENA in English 1438 GMT
2 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 2—(MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, today expressed Egypt's regret that the United States vetoed the draft resolution presented to the Security Council on the situation in occupied territories.

Dr Ghali describe such an attitude as a negative stance in [the] face of Israeli repressive measures against the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Commentary Scores U.S. Action

NC021403 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
1240 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Bahiy al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "The U.S. Veto Does Not Aid Timely Efforts To Solve the Problem"]

[Text] All those making sincere efforts for the cause of peace in the Middle East are undoubtedly trying to coordiante these efforts. As President Mubarak said in Bonn, London, Washington, and Paris, peace is precious, and we must make every effort to preserve and safeguard it, regardless of how strenuous, for its sake. The situation is difficult and grave, particularly as the uprising in the occupied Arab territories is continuing. Thus, any delay in holding the international peace conference would put everybody in a difficult position. Events could develop to a point wher it would become impossible to control them.

Two principal schools of thought have become apparent from President Mubarak's tour and from his initiative to give an impetus to the peace process. The first one, which Egypt has been advocating, is to hold the international peace conference with the participation of all parties directly concerned with the crisis under UN auspices. This would be followed at a later stage, after clear results had been achieved at the international conference, by a round of direct negotiations to discuss the practical details of measures agreed on by the parties. The second idea, endorsed by the United States and Israel, calls for direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties, with the results of these negotiations submitted to the international conference.

Some people believe that the differences between the two ideas are narrow. But the fact is that the two are completely different. To begin with, some Arab parties will never accept the notion of direct negotiations with Israel. The international conference is the correct framework for discussing the issue of peace if we want to overcome this obstacle. In addition, most countries in the East and West have agreed that the international conference is the acceptable formula for resolving the Middle East crisis. Undoubtedly, everyone's aim is to give impetus to the peace process. Resolving the issue today and not tomorrow would be a real gain for peace.

Amid this atmosphere of action and tension, the United States has used its veto to halt a draft resolution criticizing Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territories and calling for the international peace conference. The United States' use of its veto was untimely, because, as President Mubarak said in Paris, it will not help to promote the peace process. There was absolutely no need for the United States, which is a full partner in the peace process, to use its veto.

Current elements of the Middle East crisis undoubtedly require every party directly or indirectly concerned with the issue to measure its steps accurately, not according to its own interests but according to the concept of peace, the grave situation, and the possibility of avoiding any complications that might develop while efforts are being made to achieve real peace.

SLP, Muslim Brotherhood Criticize 'Initiative'

PM021033 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
26 Jan 88 pp 1,2

[Muhammad 'Abd al-Quddus report: "In First Egyptian Reaction, Alliance Leaders Criticize Mubarak Initiative"]

[Text] Ibrahim Shukri and Hamid Abu al-Nasr have taken a stand regarding President Mubarak's initiative. Shukri said that the Labor Party [SLP] was not consulted on the matter and that the initiative guarantees nothing for the Palestinians. The Muslim Brotherhood general guide said: Experience has taught me that the method of conferences without struggle does not restore rights.

SLP leader Ibrahim Shukri said that he has several observations regarding President Mubarak's recent initiative for peace in the Middle East—on the way the initiative was presented and the principles it contained.

Explaining his views, the party leader said: The initiative was presented in the course of an interview with an American newspaper. It would have been better if it had been put forward on Egyptian soil through the Egyptian media first. We would also have liked the opposition to be consulted on the ideas to be raised.

He added: The main drawback in the initiative is that it requires the Palestinians, who have right on their side, to stop their uprising and resistance against the repressive and unjust Israeli occupation in return for unguaranteed promises that would depend on long-term results and which the Israeli side—known for its procrastination, intransigence, and skill in loosening the provisions it accepts—may not honor. Its change on autonomy is not too distant an example. It should be noted that there is no agreement in Israel on holding an international peace conference. This weakens the Egyptian peace initiative because, that being the case, we cannot ask the Palestinians to stop their revolution, which came as a genuine rejection of injustice, in return for a peace conference that the Israelis have not even agreed it should be held.

Concluding his statement, the SLP leader said: We would have liked the Egyptian Government to be more decisive. Here we are not upstaging but rather passing judgment on the real nature and intentions of Israel, which is not serious about promoting a just peace based on giving the Palestinians their rights to self-determination and to their own state.

Muslim Brotherhood general guide Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr, in his assessment of the initiative concentrated on the first clause, which calls for the suspension of the uprising and reads as follows: "The parties concerned shall stop all kinds of violence and coercion in the occupied territories for 6 months."

The general guide said that he believes that this blessed uprising, which erupted in fire and light on the soil of Palestine, is the decisive factor in this matter. This blessed movement, he said, in which Muslims and Christian participated in a strong bond, is the effective, useful way at this particular time after the failure of all the false diplomatic methods from which the fraternal Palestinian people reaped nothing but a loss of time and territory.

Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr stressed that it would be a major calamity to try to stop this blessed Palestinian uprising. We, he said, should learn the lessons of the past when the Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims missed so many opportunities. The past reminds us that the 1948 truce was the direct cause of our present state of affairs.

On the proposed international peace conference, the Muslim Brotherhood general guide said that he wishes it success, but judging by past bitter experience he cannot believe that rights can be restored that way. He warned of a possible trap which might be laid there to completely destroy the current blessed movement in Palestine. In conclusion he appealed to all Arabs and Muslims to support the Palestinian uprising.

Togolese Foreign Minister Arrives 1 Feb

NC012213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT
1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Feb (MENA)—Yaovi Adodo, Togolese foreign and cooperation minister [title as received], arrived in Cairo this evening at the head of a delegation for a 1-week official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs. During his visit, the Togolese minister will hand President Muhammad Husni Mubarak a message from Togolese President Gnassingbe Eyadema.

In an arrival statement, Yaovi Adodo stated that during his visit he will hold talks with Dr Butrus Ghali on coordination regarding all issues that concern the two countries on the African and international levels.

Adodo praised President Husni Mubarak's peace initiative, saying that it will provide a long-awaited solution to the conflict in the region.

Upon his arrival, the Togolese guest was received by Dr Butrus Ghali; Ambassador Nabil al-Sillawi, director of the African Department in the Foreign Ministry; and Ambassador Isma'il Mubarak, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Received by 'Atif Sidqi, Ghali

NC030530 Cairo MENA in English 2138 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 2-(MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi received tonight the foreign minister of Togo Yaovi Adodo [title as received] who delivered to him a message from President Gnassingbe Eyadema to President Husni Mubarak.

State minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali, who attended the meeting, said they discussed African issues and bilateral relations.

Dr. Ghali said the joint committee between the two countries will commence its meetings tomorrow to discuss stepping up cooperation between Egypt and Togo.

Irrigation Minister Radi On Nile Water Level

NC021747 Cairo MENA in English 1715 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Al-Zaqaziq, Egypt, Feb 2 (MENA)—Engineer 'Isam Radi, minister of works and water resources, announced today that the problem of shortage of Nile water has not reached the critical level that [could] affect agricultural production. He termed it as a transient crisis that would be surmounted.

Radi said that the drop in water discharges behind the High Dam saved one milliard and 800,000 cubic metres of water up till the end of last January.

The minister said that the drop of area under rice in Al-Sharqiyah Governorate from 165,000 feddans to 114,000 feddans would save from seven to ten milliard metres of water.

This came at a meeting here today between Radi and the Al-Sharqiyah Governor Mahmud Al-Sharif.

Briefs

Shash Assumes Post in Lebanon

Hasan Amin Shash, the new head of the Egyptian interests bureau in Lebanon, arrived in Beirut this afternoon from Cairo to assume his post. He was received at the airport by Ambassador Muhammad Nuhad 'Asqalani and staff memebrs of the interests bureau. [Excerpt] [*Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Feb 88 NC*]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi To Visit Tunis in 'Next Few Days'

LD030857 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0025 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 3 (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is due to leave for Tunis over the next few days for a meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, well-informed Libyan sources said.

The same sources claim that besides reviewing cooperation between the two countries, which have just restored diplomatic relations broken off two years ago, Al-Qadhdhafi will discuss the greater-Maghreb question.

Al-Qadhdhafi explained his project on Maghreb integration in letters he had sent to Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. Although the content of the letters has not been disclosed, it can be concluded on the basis of some reports that Al-Qadhdhafi's proposal is not in full accordance with Algeria's view of things and is much closer to Tunisia's concept, since Al-Qadhdhafi holds that establishing a greater-Maghreb cannot be achieved without Morocco. Tunisia has also made it clear that it would not back moves which would leave Rabat on the sidelines.

Al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia was to have taken place in mid-January, but was postponed partly due to the controversies concerning the Maghreb, but mostly because of reports that Tunisia was getting ready to renew diplomatic relations with Egypt, which it has done in the meantime. Tripoli has pragmatically kept silent on Tunisia's move.

Foreign Liaison Bureau Refutes Habre 'Lies'

LD021839 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1430 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Feb (JANA)—In response to remarks by the agent Habre, a source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has made the following statement:

1. The Great Jamahiriyah today reiterates its denial of the lies fabricated and spread by Ndjamena regarding the presence of Libyan troops in northern Sudan, and the occurrence of incursions and clashes inside Chadian territories initiated from Chad's eastern borders with Sudan. It is not possible to give any credibility to such lies, as there are no Libyan troops in northern Chad.

2. What the agent Habre calls "the Islamic Legion" is in fact nothing more than an obvious attempt aimed at covering the battles raging in eastern, central, and southern Chad being waged by the First Army, "the Frolinat," and the rebellious tribes which have broken away from Habre to join the First Army.

3. The lies which Habre is spreading, and which his messengers are accustomed to distributing to the chairman of the good offices committee, the chairman of the OAU, and other African presidents, have become a farce, a joke, and a subject of amusement to everybody. We do not think that the African presidents believe in the veracity of the lies and fabrications that Habre releases in the evening and repeats in the morning. These lies only interest those who have nothing to do. The African presidents have other concerns and problems which take up their efforts and energies.

4. Reality in Chad is different from the version contained in the lies and statements broadcast by Ndjamena and the media in collusion with it. These lies have not succeeded in concealing the confinement of the authority to the capital Ndjamena, nor have they covered up the reality of the persistent terror imposed by the bloody gang squatting there under the protection of French occupation forces and agent Mobutu's small bands.

Moreover, attributing everything that happens in Chad to external factors could no longer be believed even by Habre's masters and protectors. In addition to the vice of lying, which characterizes Ndjamena's gang, there is also a tendency to deceive and not listen to advice and differing opinions.

5. Habre's protectors and masters have themselves become aware of the game of lies, deceit, and political balckmail. It is no longer possible to believe that any internal protest movement or any power struggle is an aggression manipulated by external hands.

Therefore, Habre has no lies left to spread as his friends and protectors have exposed him. Africa has become fed up with his lies and will soon abandon him because his stance does not accord with the progress of its militant history. Rather, it is consigned to shame and oblivion.

Native Americans Conference Ends in Tripoli

LD030228 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0015 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The first international conference of Red Indians ended tonight in Tripoli. Its work began last Saturday under the banner "For the Liberation of the Red Indian Nation" and in the presence of Red Indian personalities from North, Central, and South America, who live outside the circle of [word indistinct]. The conference issued a political statement at the end of its work. Our correspondent gives more details in the following dispatch:

The conference issued a political statement, which said in particular: The first international [words indistinct]. The opening session was attended by international revolutionary Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the international revolution. After the conference had reviewed the local and international issues that (?concern) the Red Indian nation [words indistinct] international revolutionary Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, it issued a declaration which said in the main:

The Red Indian nation is in the forefront of the fragmented nations which have the right to liberate their land and to preserve their personalities and cultural identities. We condemn imperialism, which exploits our motherland to stockpile wealth at the expense of mankind. The Red Indian nation considers itself an effective element in the new international front of the weak peoples against the reactionary-imperialist Zionist alliance, in escalation of the Red Indian national struggle and bringing near the day of its unity. The Indian nation declares the birth of the United Front for the Liberation of the Red Indians and adopts the Great Jamahiriyah as its headquarters. Its struggle for liberation and unity is not isolated from other peoples' struggle against racists, imperialists, reactionaries, and fascists. We salute the distinguished stands of the revolutionary Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan Arab people in the confrontation of the imperialist-Atlantic aggression.

The conference saluted the struggle of the Palestinian people against the Zionist invaders and for the liberation of all its land. It also saluted the struggle of the people of South Africa against the racist regime. The conference adopted several practical resolutions concerning the United Front [words indistinct].

After reading the political statement, the participants continued to discuss the articles of the United Front for the Liberation of the Red Indian Nation. One speaker stressed the need for the implementation [words indistinct].

U.S. Attitude to Arab Nation Seen as 'Hostile'

LD021936 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Feb (JANA)—The United States has confirmed anew its open hostility and racist hated toward the Arab nation and its contempt for the international community's resolutions when it used yesterday—for the second time in 2 weeks—the so-called right of veto in the UN Security Council against a resolution denouncing the Zionist enemy and condemning its criminal actions against the Palestinian Arab people.

Commenting on this, the JANA Arab affairs commentator said: This U.S. attitude, which reflects clearly its support and full backing for the criminal actions of the Zionist racist enemy against the Arab citizens in occupied Palestine, stems purely from the crusaders hate for and emity toward the Arab nation and disregards all international laws and customs.

The United States, through its insolent insistence on the use of the so-called right of veto, flagranty challenges the will of the international community, which has

denounced the Zionist acts of killing and terrorism against the unarmed and innocent Palestinian people. He continued: This hostile, racist U.S. attitude is directed not only toward the Palestinian Arab people, but is also directed with all possible hatred and spite toward all the Arabs—rather all mankind.

The commentor asserted: Is it not worthwhile asking why those Arabs who do so continue to believe in the U.S. illusion? Is there now any justification for the continuation of their relationship with the United States when it has revealed its hostile face to the Arab nation on many occasions? The commentator confirmed that the time has come for a united Arab stand vis-a-vis the United States, corresponding to the latter's hostile attitude toward the Arab nation and the central cause of this attitude: Palestine, and saluting the blood of our martyrs in occupied Palestine.

Morocco

King Hassan Welcomes Arrival of Egypt's Mubarak

NC021631 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1624 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Marrakesh, 2 Feb (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and his wife arrived at Al-Manarah airport in Marrakesh today at 1615 local time, 1815 Cairo time, from Paris at the start of his official visit to Morocco. His excellency was received at the airport by His Majesty King Hassan II, his daughter, Princess Lala al-Hassan, government officials, senior state officials, and ambassadors of Arab and African countries represented in Morocco.

Hold First Round of Talks

LD022339 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The first round of talks between His Majesty King Hassan II and President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was held today at the residence of Morocco's honored guest as soon as he arrived in Marrakesh.

This private round of talks lasted for 30 minutes. Prior to this, the two leaders had a 15-minute talk in the VIP lounge of the Marrakesh Al-Manarah airport where the Egyptian president had arrived this afternoon. He was welcomed at the airport by His Majesty King Hassan II who was accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Princess Lala Asma. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Al-Fadil Returns From Unannounced Libyan Visit

JN021257 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Feb (SUNA)—Industry Minister Mubarak 'Abdallah al-Fadil returned home last night following a brief unannounced visit to the Libyan Jamahiriyah.

This was reported today by the daily AL-AYYAM. The paper explained that during the visit the minister delivered a message from Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi to the Libyan leadership with regard to bilateral relations in the current circumstances. The minister returned carrying the Libyan leadership's response to this message.

Al-Mahdi Views Military Situation in South

JN021909 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 2 (SUNA)—Prime Minister and Minister of Defence al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has announced that the Sudanese Armed Forces had established an air bridge between Khartoum and Juba in southern Sudan to transport troops and military equipments to restore Kapeota town which was captured by rebel forces of John Garang.

Al-Mahdi said in a press conference he held here Tuesday that the Sudanese Armed Forces are capable of retaking of Kapeota and described the capturing of the town as "mindless act."

He pointed out that the capturing of the town has brought difficulties to the people in desperate need of relief.

Al-Mahdi said in his press conference that four Sudanese troops were killed during the attacking of the town and 54 others were missing while six officers and 447 troops were said to have withdrawn to Uganda. He said measures have been secured to bring them back home.

He pointed out that more than five thousand rebels had participated in the attack of Kapeota against only five hundred Sudanese troops stationed in the town.

Al-Mahdi criticised the information quoted by the Equatoria Region deputy governor on the rebels capturing of Terkala, Mundri and Torit towns.

He confirmed that no other town than Kapeota was captured by the rebels in the area.

The prime minister confirmed that the general mobilization which was announced by the government following the capturing of Kurmuk and Qaysan last Nov will continue and the people's concern over the take over of the two towns had been motivated by the high level foreign intervention.

Al-Mahdi disclosed in his press conference that a European country (which he did not name) has refused to implement an agreement signed with Sudan Government to supply Sudan with 1000 personnel carriers, and said efforts are under way to seek other choices.

On the commodities situation in southern Sudan Al-Mahdi said 170 trucks loaded with food stuff had arrived in Juba from Kenya last December and 230 other trucks had reached Wau on Jan 17 through Raja town in western Bahr Al- Ghazal.

He added that 36 steamers loaded with foodstuffs are on their way from Kosti to Malakal, capital of Upper Nile.

Al-Mahdi announced that three civilian air planes started today to transport 1000 tonnes of food stuff and commodities to Juba from Khartoum and said the airlift transport will continue till the end of Feb. Al-Mahdi said Equitoria Region is an need of 11,000 tonnes of food stuff for this year and Upper Nile Region is in need of 10,000 tonnes which could be transported by steamers from Kosti to Malakal, and Bahar Al-Ghazal Region is in need of 12,000 tonnes of food which could be transported by railway and trucks.

Spokesman on Goals of SPLA Capture of Kapoeta

JN021130 Khartoum SUNA in English 1051 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb 2 (SUNA)—The official spokesman of the Armed Forces said the Sudan Peoples Liberation Army rebels intended by recapturing the southeastern town of Kapeota Equatoria Region to help ease opening roads to Kenya and Uganda with the view to dispatching reinforcements to their troops inside the Sudan.

Speaking to the Arabic daily AL-ITTIHAD published here today the Army official said rebels resorting to capture border towns makes it evident that they (rebels) depend on external supplies from some foreign countries.

He further denied recent press reports on the siege by the rebels of some Equatoria towns adding that withdrawal of the governments troops from Kapoeta was a tactic and that the town would soon be recaptured from the rebels who he said had received a three-thousand-man reinforcement to keep the town in their hands.

Government Sends Poisoned Grain to Juba

EA030203 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Reliable SPLA sources in Juba have informed Radio SPLA that the grain dura which was brought for relief to Juba from Khartoum was discovered poisoned on 18 January 1986. According to the sources, when Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was informed about the discovery by the governer of Equatoria, Al-Sadiq reacted angrily against the report and immediately ordered for the expatriate doctor who allegedly discovered the poison to report to Khartoum.

Following the discovery of the poison, our sources say the citizens went to the streets demonstrating against the government's attempt to poison them. The sources further revealed that the Bari nationals serving in the Army, police, prisons, and wildlife have refused to obey orders to go for operations, and that the government is fearing to take disciplinary measures against the mutineers.

Meanwhile, the spokesman of the SPLA military high command has strongly condemned Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's attempt to poison what Al-Sadiq claims are his fellow citizens. The spokesman called for an independent inquiry to be made to investigate the truth.

The spokesman likened the case of food poisoning to that of slavery which the Al-Sadiq's government sponsors and condones.

Rebels Shell Kajo Kaji Garrison, 4 Killed

EA030157 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Units of Shakkush Battalion under the operational command of Captain (Majier Ayom Malip), the acting commander of Shakkush Task Force No 2, shelled Kajo Kaji enemy garrison recently killing four enemy soldiers, one of whom was identified as private (Christopher Ongochuk), and six others were injured. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Moroccan Premier Holds Talks With Baccouche

LD020251 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Hedi Baccouche held talks with his Moroccan counterpart this afternoon. The two prime ministers then cochaired an extended working session at which the two sides stressed the exemplary brotherly cooperation between Tunisia and Morocco and the need to give it a new boost.

During this session, Dr Azzedine Laraki informed Hedi Baccouche of the Moroccan king's decision to revoke entry visas for Tunisians visiting Morocco. [passage omitted]

Hedi Baccouche stated that the greater Maghreb could not be built without the Kingdom of Morocco. He indicated that this belief is shared by both the Tunisians and the Algerians. He added: We cannot imagine a Maghreb edifice, however limited, if it does not include Morocco.

The Tunisian prime minister pointed out, in an interview with the Moroccan paper LE MATIN DU SAHARA published today on the occasion of Laraki's visit to Tunisia, that the Sahara problem represents an obstacle to the building of the Maghreb. He insisted on the need to resolve it. He also expressed his belief that

the solution to the Sahara problem would reinforce trust among the states of the region, and he indicated that the Sahara represents a problem of trust more than a real problem and that its psychological repercussions are greater than any other.

Meets With Ben Ali 2 Feb

LD030610 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali conferred at noon today at the presidential palace in Carthage with Dr Azzedine Laraki, the Moroccan prime minister. Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche also attended the meeting.

Holds News Conference

LD022143 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Tunisia's guest, Dr Azzedine Laraki, the Moroccan prime minister, and his aides attended part of the House of Deputies' working session. [passage omitted]

The Moroccan prime minister announced the decision of King Hasan II to suspend visa requirements for Tunisian citizens so that they would be able to visit their second homeland, Morocco, under the best possible circumstances. This is out of his majesty's eagerness to provide further reasons for getting closer and strengthening fraternal ties.

He said: The Moroccan Government is ready to push and consolidate cooperation between the two countries to the fullest. He expressed his hope that a parliamentary council of the Arab Maghreb peoples would be set up in which the heads of the Moroccan, Tunisian, Algerian, Mauritanian, and Libyan Jamahiriyah governments would be heard. [passage omitted]

The Moroccan prime minister held a press conference this evening at the Moroccan Embassy in Tunis, during which he analyzed the results of his visit to Tunisia. He stressed that he has had intensive talks with officials in Tunisia which were very important, whether at the political or technical levels, concerning bilateral relations or the issues of the region and the Arab and Islamic world.

Dr Laraki said that he had come to consolidate the existing strong relations between Morocco and Tunisia, to consolidate and expand these relations, and to explore additional fields. His visit is also a sincere attempt to push forward anything that would facilitate the establishment of the Arab Maghreb, which is equally an ambition of Morocco's and Tunisia's.

In the context of bilateral relations, he stressed that the customs agreement signed between the two countries in 1986 has been consolidated by filling the gaps which had been preventing its implementation. He said that the list of goods permitted for export between the two countries has been specified.

He added that a joint chamber of commerce has been set up and that meetings between the two countries' experts would be held regularly so that all problems in the responsible administrative structures would be resolved. He noted that cooperation will include many fields, such as renewable energy and its development and exploitation in industry in the two countries, as well as the agricultural field which will witness growth and expansion. The Tunisian minister of agriculture will pay a visit to Tunisia soon.

The Moroccan prime minister said that the visa issue has been settled with Tunisia. He pointed out that it was a temporary measure dictated by special circumstances.

He talked about the issue of Arab Maghreb unity and said that Arab Maghreb unity cannot be achieved with the exclusion of any of its members, and that his country was prepared to enter into negotiations with its brothers in Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, and Libya without laying down any conditions for the establishment of Arab Maghreb unity.

Ben Mbarek, Moroccan Counterpart Discuss Trade

LD031342 Rabat MAP in English 1250 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, Feb 3 (MAP)—On Tuesday here, [Morocco's] Moulay Zine Zahidi and Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, Tunisian minister of trade, co-chaired a work session on means to further enhance cooperation between the two countries.

Existing cooperation and ways to further consolidate it in the areas of trade, industrial joint ventures, and exchanges in energy and mining were reviewed in the presence of Abdallah Azmani, Moroccan minister of trade and industry; and Mohamed Fettah, Moroccan minister of energy and mines.

President Meets With Arab League's Klibi

LD022120 Tunis TAP in French 1545 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Carthage, 2 Feb (TAP)—At Carthage Palace this morning President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who made the following statement at the end of the meeting:

"The talks concerned the work of the International Human Rights Commission, which began Monday in Geneva, and the League's proposal which calls on certain Arab foreign ministers to speak at the meeting to shed

light on the oppressive Israeli maneuvers which are currently going on in the occupied territories against the Palestinian people, particularly the exactions on children and young people.

"The talks also concerned activities currently taking place on the Maghreb scene and the great prospects they open up for joint Arab action in the region".

Algeria Proposes Gas Supply Logistics for Libya

LD292215 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 jan 88

[Text] Principles, action, and their implementation are needed to attain the economic integration between the Arab Maghreb countries. The current contacts in the region are aimed at providing all the necessary conditions for the unionist effort that meets the aspirations of the region's people.

Since last Wednesday, Belkacem Mabi, the minister of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries, has been paying an official visit to fraternal Tunis, where he had talks with Slaheddine Ben Mbarek, Tunisian minister of national economy.

A source close to the Algerian delegation said that these talks are dealing with practical ways to supply the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, through Tunisian territory, with Algerian natural gas. The source noted that the realization of such an important project, which is the first of its kind in the region and in Africa, would also allow southern Tunisia to be supplied with Algerian natural gas.

Al-Qadhdhafi Envoy Delivers Message to Ben Ali

LD291734 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had a meeting with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, permanent representative of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah at the Arab League. Al-'Ubaydi said that he had conveyed to the president a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi concerning bilateral relations and activities at the Arab Maghreb level.

Minister on Cancellation of Al-Qadhdhafi Trip

PM281547 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 23 Jan 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "Taieb Sahbani Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Tunisian Veto on Al-Qadhdhafi; No Unity or Fraternity Without Morocco"]

[Excerpt] Tunisia has reiterated that there can be no Arab Maghreb unity without the participation of Morocco, and that this Arab country's accession to the treaty of fraternity and concord is up to it, and also up to the agreement of the leaders of the three parties to the treaty: Tunisia, Mauritania, and Algeria. Tunisian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Taieb Sahbani has said: "We in Tunisia regard the treaty as the starting point for building a greater Arab Maghreb."

In statements to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT at the end of a 4-day visit to the British capital, Sahbani said that a visit by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Tunisia is a possibility, and the cancellation of the visit scheduled for 16 January (last Saturday) is due to Al-Qadhdhafi's prior commitments and no other factors.

He said: The Libyan leader has good intentions toward Tunisia and is ready to open a new page on the basis of equality and the safeguarding of common interests, and in my opinion the visit will take place at some other time.

Sahbani, who visited Egypt before Britain, denied that the reason for the cancellation of Al-Qadhdhafi's visit is the welcoming of the commanders of the French and U.S. Mediterranean fleets by the Tunisian president and the issue of relations with Egypt. He said: Al-Qadhdhafi knows that when we decided to restore our relations with him, it was on the basis of the preservation of each state's full sovereignty and right to conduct its own affairs and nonintervention in the affairs of others.

He added: We have not stipulated that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi change his friendships. On the contrary, so far as we are concerned, we have interests and friends, and we will safeguard them. There is nothing against Libya in Tunisia's pledges to strengthen and promote its relations with others. Moreover, we would not be happy to be involved in any action hostile to Libya.

With regard to the effect of the cancellation of the visit on Libya's accession to the fraternity and concord treaty, Sahbani stressed that there is no relationship between the two matters. The visit is a possibility and may take place. As for the matter of Libya's accession to the tripartite treaty, it is of course subject to preconditions. Libya has first of all to express a desire and ask to accede to the treaty. But the Libyan Government has not submitted a request in this regard. [passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Speedboats Attack Norwegian Ship

JN030644 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0613 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] A short while ago an urgent dispatch citing Gulf shipping sources was received which reported that several Iranian speedboats attacked a Norwegian freighter this morning, inflicting massive damage and setting the vessel ablaze. The ship was attacked approximately 10 nautical miles from the UAE port of Al-Shariqah, according to these same sources.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister on Diplomatic Work in Lebanon

LD021926 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has expressed hope for the return of stability and normality to fraternal Lebanon so that Kuwait will be able to send diplomats and other members of its embassy to resume their full and usual activity.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad informed journalists that Kuwait has not sent diplomats to Beirut pending stabilization of the situation there. He added, however, that the Kuwaiti Embassy in the Lebanese capital remains open and that there are people carrying out business there.

India Urged To Help End Iran-Iraq War

BK011614 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait has urged India to help end the Iran-Iraq war. The Kuwaiti plea was conveyed to India by crown prince and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, and deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, when the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Eduardo Faleiro, called on them in Kuwait this morning. The two sides exchanged views on the Gulf war, the Palestine problem, besides other matters of mutual interest. The AIR Gulf correspondent, Jagmohan Mathur, reporting from Kuwait, says that Mr Faleiro also held wide-ranging talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Mr Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi.

Meanwhile, in the Gulf, an Iraqi missile has hit a Panamanian freighter by mistake, setting it ablaze and forcing the crew to abandon it. Shipping sources say several ships are still searching for the crew of the freighter a day after it was spotted burning and abandoned in the central Gulf.

U.S. Company Fined Over Boycott-Related Requests

LD012212 Kuwait KUNA in English 1910 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, Feb 1 (KUNA)—In what may be the first case of its kind, the U.S. Government has punished an Israeli firm for alleged violations of American export laws, the Commerce Department announced here Monday.

At the same time, it also said a substantial fine had been levied on a U.S. company for failure to report requests from Kuwait certifying goods provided it were not from Israel, a statement issued here today said.

The Israeli entity is the Tel Aviv-based establishment Noon International, Inc.

The company and its owner, Joseph Sappir, have been denied all U.S. export privileges for five years for re-exporting from Israel to Switzerland two American-made computers without the proper U.S. Government authorization. The machinery was worth about 200,000 dollars, the Commerce Department statement said today.

The announcement added that "establishment Noon" also failed to notify it that "Israel was no longer the ultimate destination and the two Israeli companies were no longer the ultimate consignees."

The government said the two Vax 11/750 computers and spare parts for them were controlled for national security reasons. They are "duel use" items with possible military applications, according to the U.S. notification.

The Israeli firm may no longer participate in or benefit from any transactions involving the export or re-export of U.S. origin goods of technology.

Similarly, no other companies can deal with it in any export transaction involving U.S. goods without express Commerce Department permission, the announcement said.

In the Kuwait case, a 33,000 dollar civil penalty has been imposed on Tennessee-based American National Bank and Trust Co. for alleged violations of the anti-boycott provisions of the Export Administration Act.

According to the Commerce Department, the bank "failed to report promptly 22 receipts of boycott-related requests from Kuwait between January, 1983 and June, 1984. [no endquotes as received]

U.S. laws prohibit any American company from responding to boycott information requests—that is, for information about its dealings with Israel.

Oman

Decree Issued To Establish Embassy in Syria

JN021802 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Decree No 1088 issued by Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman on 2 February]

[Text] We, Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, after reviewing Sultani Decree No 26/75 on the issuance of a law organising the administrative organ of the state and its amendments, and Sultani Decree No 40/86 on the issuance of a law on the diplomatic and consular corps, and in order to serve the public interest, have decided the following:

1. An embassy for the Sultanate will be established in the Syrian Arab Republic.

2. This decree will be published in the Official Gazette and enter into force upon publication.

Issued on 2 February 1988

[Signed] Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian Awqaf Minister Arrives in Riyadh

NC011253 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Minister of Awqaf Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has stated that he is bringing a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak to his brother, Saudi Arabia's King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, on promoting the good and distinguished relations between their fraternal peoples.

The Awqaf minister, who arrived in Riyadh last night, said that the talks he is to hold today with 'Abd al-Wahab 'Abd al-Wasi', the Saudi minister of pilgrimage affairs and Awqaf, will seek to strengthen bilateral relations and focus on ways to promote the call to Islam. The talks will also deal with rules regulating the Egyptian people's pilgrimage and the Conference of the Islamic Call to be held in Cairo in March, he added.

Meets With Defense Minister

LD021233 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1203 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 2 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, received the Egyptian minister of Awqaf, Dr Muahammad 'Ali Mahjub, in his office in the Al-Yamamah palace this afternoon. The Egyptian minister conveyed a verbal message for the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, from his brother the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Muhammad Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

President Receives Two PDRY Officials

JN021755 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received at his palace in Ta'izz at midday today Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the YSP Central Committee, and Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, candidate member of the Political Bureau, deputy minister of defense, and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland. A number of issues of mutual concern to both parts of the homeland were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Brothers Dr Hasan Muhammad Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the Standing Committee; Lieutenant Colonel 'Abdallah al-Bashiri, chief of staff and member of the Standing Committee; and Yahya al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs.

Further Reportage on Visit by USSR's Pallayev

Holds Parliamentary Talks

JN012003 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Iraqi-Soviet parliamentary talks were held at the National Assembly in Baghdad today. The Iraqi delegation was led by Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, while the Soviets were headed by Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Sa'dun Hammadi briefed the members of the visiting delegation on recent developments in the Iranian aggression. He highlighted Iraq's insistence that UN Security Council Resolution 598 be implemented in accordance with the sequence of its articles. At the same time, he voiced Iraq's readiness to foil any fresh act of aggression which the Iranian regime may plan. He noted the importance of imposing sanctions on the Iranian regime for its refusal to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 and for ignoring the international will. He described Iraqi-Soviet relations as good, well developed, and an example of the sort of honest ties that should exist among countries.

Gaibnazar Pallayev declared that his country supports Iraq in line with the treaty of friendship and cooperation linking the two states. He said: The Soviet leadership and people deeply appreciate Iraq's frank and intelligent position on stopping the Iraq-Iran war. That stand, he added, enjoys the support of all peoples, countries, and international organizations.

The discussions covered developments in Iran's aggressive war against Iraq, and the Iraqi forces' true readiness to crush any Iranian aggression. In addition, the participants examined the Palestine question, the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories, current international issues, and the ongoing administrative and economic changes in both countries. [passage omitted]

Confers With Hasan 'Ali

JN021858 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front [PNPF], met at the PNPF office today with Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the members of his delegation.

The deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium praised Iraq's response to Security Council Resolution 598, and expressed his country's determination to implement that document. He also said that the Soviet Union wanted to reinforce its cooperation with the PNPF to strengthen relations between the Iraqi and Soviet peoples.

During the meeting, Hasan 'Ali reviewed developments in Iran's aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation, its continuous threat to peace and security in the Arabian Gulf and the world at large, and Iran's rejection of efforts for peace. The latest example of this was in reference to Resolution 598, which embodies the international community's will to achieve peace. 'Ali noted the developing relations between Iraq and the USSR in light of the treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was also attended by representatives of the parties that form the PNPF, the members of the Soviet delegation, and the USSR ambassador in Baghdad.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN030941 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the members of his delegation. Pallayev conveyed the greetings of the Soviet leadership to President Saddam Husayn, and passed along its best wishes for his excellency's continued good health, and for the progress and prosperity of the Iraqi people.

The talks during the meeting covered bilateral relations, the Iraq-Iran war, and the importance of implementing UN Security Council Resolution 598, which expresses the international community's will to achieve a just and comprehensive peace.

Among those present were Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker; the president's secretary; and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad.

Sudanese State Council Member Pays Visit

Makes Arrival Statement

JN311430 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1312 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Sudanese State Council member Pacifico Lado Lolik arrived in Baghdad today at the head of a delegation for a visit to Iraq that will last several days. In a statement to INA, he reaffirmed Sudan's backing of Iraq in its defense of its sovereignty and dignity.

Pacifico Lado also expressed his country's appreciation for Iraq's stands in support of peace. In addition, he said Sudan welcomes UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the war and the achievement of peace. He added that during his stay, he will hold talks with Iraqi officials to bolster relations between the two fraternal countries in all areas.

Begins Political Talks

JN011737 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1552 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Talks began here today between the Iraqi Progressive National and Patriotic Front [PNPF] and the political parties of Sudan. The PNPF delegation was led by Hasan 'Ali, its secretary general and member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The representatives of the Sudanese political parties were headed by State Council member Pacifico Lado Lolik.

During their discussions, the two groups called for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598. They also said that Iran should be forced to accept that document so as to enhance the international will for peace. In addition, they studied ways of bolstering and promoting bilateral ties to serve the common interests of the peoples of both fraternal states. Hasan 'Ali reviewed the democratic march in Iraq and the cultural and economic development going on in the country. He noted Iraq's ability to resist Iranian aggression, and to frustrate every attempt by the aggressors to hurt Iraq's land and people.

The secretary general of the PNPF noted the gravity of the treasonous role played by the agent Syrian regime in its violation of the Amman Arab summit resolutions, its attempts to break Arab unity, and its encouragement of Zionist Iranian aggression against both Iraq and the Arab nation.

Pacifico Lado Lolik explained that the Sudanese Government and people support the Iraqi people in their defensive battle against the Iranian enemy. He said Iraq's victory will be the Arab nation's victory. He touched on conditions in Sudan, and the efforts being made to hold a democratic dialogue among all parties so as to bolster Sudanese national unity.

Voices Support on War

LD012258 Khartoum SUNA in English 1716 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 1, (SUNA)—Member of the Council of the State Dr. Pacifico Lado Lolik has affirmed Sudan's stance beside Iraq in fighting against Iran.

In a statement to the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY today Lolik expressed Sudan's appreciation to Iraq's peaceful attitudes towards ending the Gulf war.

On the other hand Dr. Lolik met here today with member of the Iraqi Revolutionary Council, the secretary general of the National Progressive Front Hasan 'Ali and discussed issues of mutual concern.

Dr. Lolik arrived here yesterday leading a delegation from the Sudanese political parties on a six day official visit to Iraq.

Meets With Saddam Husayn

JN021255 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1120 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Feb (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has received a delegation of Sudanese political parties, led by Sudanese State Council member Pacifico Lado Lolik. Lolik conveyed a message to the president from his brother, Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Sudanese State Council. The message deals with relations between the two fraternal countries. The participants in the meeting discussed the current Arab situation and Iraq's ability to deter and crush the Iranian regime's aggression.

Among the others present were Hasan 'Ali, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command; the secretary general of the Progressive National and Patriotic Front; the president's secretary; and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

British Labor Party Official Holds Talks

Received by 'Aziz

JN311920 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has met with Gerald Kaufman, foreign secretary in the shadow cabinet of the British Labor Party. Bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting, as were the regional situation and Iran's aggression against Iraq in light of UN Security Council Resolution 598, issued in 1987. The session was also attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary, the head of the First International Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the British ambassador in Baghdad.

Meets With Ramadan

JN011501 Baghdad INA in English 1405 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 1, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier today conferred here with Mr. Gerald Kaufman, shadow foreign secretary of the British opposition Labour Party.

During the meeting, discussions touched on relations between Iraq and Britain and means of promoting them in the trade and economic fields in service of common interests.

Mr. Ramadan reviewed the Iraqi economic situation and future stressing its solidity and said that it would witness big developments during next years with intensified oil resources and accomplishment of several strategic agricultural and industrial projects within the frame of the drive for backing combat spirit in the frontline defence positions.

Referring to the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq stand vis-a-vis Security Council Resolution No. 598, Mr. Ramadan stressed Iraq's commitment to this resolution and rejection of any change in it, referring in this respect to maneuvers of the Iranian regime and negligence of international laws and charters and also insistence to continue the policy of aggression and expansion which would be confronted by the Iraqis with high preparedness.

Speaking on his part, Mr. Gerald Kaufman stressed his country's desire to expand commercial and economic relations with Iraq and affirmed necessity of implementing Resolution No. 598 which, he said, constitutes a comprehensive decision to end the Iraq-Iran war.

He extolled Iraq's stances vis-a-vis peace initiatives and welcome of Security Council Resolution No. 598.

Confers With Assembly Speaker

JN011628 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1542 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Feb (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, met here today with Gerald Kaufman, Britain's shadow foreign secretary. The participants in the meeting reviewed developments in Iran's aggression against Iraq, ways to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 in full and in accordance with the sequence of its articles, and the volatile situation in occupied Palestine. Sa'dun Hammadi stressed Iraq's ability to defeat the Iranian regime's aggression and to inflict additional losses on its forces.

Minister Leaves for Economic Talks in Oman

JN310852 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Jan (INA)—Transport and Communications Minister Muhammad Hamzah left today for Muscat, where he will lead the Iraqi delegation to the fourth session of the Iraqi-Omani Joint Committee for Economic and Technical Cooperation. The committee will begin its meetings in Muscat tomorrow. During the proceedings, the committee will discuss a trade exchange plan, the possibility of expanding cooperation in all fields, and ways to promote economic relations in the interests of both countries.

Foreign Minister 'Aziz Visits Moscow

For Moscow TASS accounts of the arrival in Moscow of Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and his talks with Nikolay Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 2 February Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Baghdad Views Syrian-Iranian 'Partnership'

JN012040 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1708 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Arab brothers everywhere: There was nothing new in the remarks made by Faruq al-Shar', the Syrian regime's foreign minister, during his recent visit to Tehran. Nor was there anything surprising in the Syrian-Iranian agreement on coordination in the Gulf.

As for the Syrian regime's support for Iran's policy on the war and its charges that Iraq is trying to foment tension, the facts say that the relationship between Damascus and Tehran is not one of support but of partnership. There is a great difference between support and partnership.

We do not believe that Al-Shar' met with Khamene'i simply to tell him that the Syrian regime supports the Iranian stand on the war. The relationship between Al-Asad's Syria and Khomeyni's Iran goes beyond support and alliance. This was the foreign minister's third visit to Tehran. His master, Hafiz al-Asad, sent him to get acquainted with the arrangements for Iran's new aggression. He also sought reassurance on the preparations made by his allies for their expected aggression and wanted to offer his own advice on that aggression and its timing.

The Syrian regime is a full partner of the Iranian regime in its aggression against Iraq. Partners have the right and duty to coordinate, and one should discuss the details of his new aggression with the other. Once that is done, it is fine for Al-Shar' to say: Iran has no ambitions in the region.

The problem of the Al-Asad regime lies in the fact that thinks itself smart, capable of fooling everyone, and able to mask and justify its treason with claims that Syria is trying to build a bridge between the peoples of the area and Iran. The Syrian regime wants everyone, especially the Arabs, to believe those allegations, and to deny firm facts they can clearly see. It is the logic of treason, a perverse logic. It is Iran that has declared it will launch a large-scale attack on Iraq. It is Iran that has committed acts of aggression against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain, and it is Iran that has obstructed international shipping in the Arabian Gulf. Why, then, does it insist on continuing its aggression against Iraq and other countries in the area if, as Al-Shar' claims, it has no designs on

Arab territory and wants to build bridges with regional countries? Indeed, Iran refuses even to think of ending the conflict and accepting calls for peace, which would spare the region and its peoples the horrors of war.

If Iran's aggression is not driven by ambition, is it simply hurling its forces toward Iraq as tourists? Are they going on a picnic? No, a thousand times no, O traitor Al-Shar'. That is not the explanation. It is Iran that has repeatedly expressed its wish to occupy Iraq and other countries in the area, and to establish subservient regimes. It is Iran that has tried, and is still trying, to achieve its ambitions on Iraqi territory. However, Iran has been and remains unable to do so. It has been and continues to be defeated by Iraqi skill and steadfastness.

However, we have lived to hear Al-Shar' say that Iran wants to build bridges to the peoples of the region. Perhaps he wants us or the Arabs to believe him. How foolish! Defeat to the aggressors and their allies!

Communique No 3,007 Issued on Gulf War Action

JN021724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,007 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With the patience of jealous believers defending their soil and homeland and fighting to raise the word of truth, our victorious Armed Forces will continue to record epics of heroism and sacrifice in our glorious history. Our forces are braver and determined to smash the covetous enemies. The following is a roundup of activities conducted by our units last night and today:

1. Our brave men in the I Army Corps northern sector attacked the enemy units opposite them, inflicting the following losses: 156 scoundrels dead; 1 tank, 1 armored personnel carrier, 1 rocket launcher, 4 120-mm mortars, and 1 106-mm gun destroyed; 7 vehicles burned and destroyed; 1 shovel [preceding word in English] and 2 machineguns destroyed; and 24 ammunition dumps blown up.

2. Five infantry positions, one observation post, two machineguns, and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed in the sector held by the Special I Army Corps—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. An enemy soldier was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Three enemy infantry positions and an observation post were destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Two infantry positions, an observation post, and two machineguns were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector, and one ammunition dump was demolished.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 February 1988

REUTER Reporter Released After Questioning
TA021823 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] IDF personnel in the Gaza Strip have detained REUTER correspondent (Tahir Sharita) for interrogation. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the correspondent was detained together with his brother near a roadblock of burning tires. A military source denied the correspondent's claims that he and his brother were beaten, and said that the two were released following an interrogation.

Peres Sees International Opening to Negotiations
TA021947 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1930 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said today that if things go right it will be possible to reach an international opening to peace negotiations in April or May. In today's Alignment faction session Mr Peres asked his party members to support any peace initiative regardless of which side it comes from. Mr Peres said that the status quo is a catastrophe.

Cabinet Secretary Leaves 'Secretly' for Paris
TA030522 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein has left secretly for Paris, where Jordan's King Husayn is currently visiting. Herut Knesset Member Dan Meridor left for Washington after being briefed by the prime minister. The above was reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Ambassador Moshe Arad will confer today with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in anticipation of the latter's upcoming visit to the Middle East to examine the parties' views. This evening, Ambassador Arad will meet with Secretary of State George Shultz.

The Inner Cabinet will discuss the U.S. initiative today, and the subject will also feature this afternoon in the Likud ministers weekly meeting.

U.S. Administration sources have told our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer that there is as yet no consolidated U.S. plan, and that the reports from Israel stem from a war of attrition between the Likud and the Alignment.

Prime Minister Shamir said last night that he does not anticipate political developments in the next few days. Vice Prime Minister Peres, on the other hand, said that if the current political initiatives continue as planned, an international opening may be expected in April or May.

'Sharp Exchanges' at Inner Cabinet Session
TA031137 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] There were sharp exchanges between Defense Minister Rabin and National Religious Party Minister Yosef Shapira at the end of the Inner Cabinet meeting.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Minister Shapira stormed into the Inner Cabinet hall at the end of the session and handed a message to the prime minister on the Judaea and Samaria Jewish settlers' threat to take steps in view of the attacks on their vehicles.

The defense minister said that the settlers are a burden and should learn from the settlers residing along the confrontation line in the north.

Minister Shapira then raised his voice, and Minister 'Ezer Weizman rebuked him for daring to shout at the defense minister in the presence of army officers.

U.S. Policy at Square One Despite Habib Mission
TA021656 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A New U.S. Offensive"]

[Text] What does the world expect from the United States and Israel after they announced their refusal to respond positively to UN resolutions, as well as their disavowal of legitimate Palestinian rights?

What new ideas are U.S. envoys carrying to the region? Washington apparently is not satisfied with this disavowal of legitimate Palestinian rights, but intends to launch a political offensive.

Yesterday's visit to Amman by Philip Habib, during which he delivered an urgent message from President Reagan to the Jordanian king, comes within the context of the new U.S. offensive aimed at burnishing U.S. credibility and preventing the establishment of a strong Arab front to confront the disgraced U.S. policy in the region.

No matter how many envoys the United States sends and regardless of how much political cover it provides for Israel in the Security Council, the United States will not be able to continue this policy for long and will always find itself at square one.

Commentary Sees No Clear Peace Plan Emerging

TA021508 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
2 Feb 88 p 7

[Commentary by Yosi Melman: "There Is No Peace Plan"]

[Text] There is still no clear and consolidated peace plan on the horizon. The U.S. Administration is trying to feel its way in the Middle East darkness. President Reagan and Secretary Shultz have suddenly found out what many people here in Israel already know: the status quo and a political stalemate are a guarantee for another countdown and another round of hostilities.

It is possible to claim, on the basis of dialectical reasoning, that the 40 Palestinian casualties, the IDF's trigger-happy policy, and Rabin's clubs have born fruit. They have brought about a renewed U.S. involvement in the region.

President Mubarak's activism also proves that the Arab countries have learned the lessons of the past, especially the lessons of Menahem Begin's years in office. The principle is simple: Israel's right wing is holding the country by the throat.

The Arabs understand that they had better do business with the Likud. Agreements with the Labor Party will always depend on the Likud's acquiescence. On the other hand, if they make an agreement with the Likud, the Labor Party will not oppose it. Even if it does, it will not have the power to muster the popular support necessary to thwart it.

The U.S. Administration is currently trying to find a compromise formula which would almost amount to squaring the circle. What they have is a heap of ideas that are meant to satisfy everyone, Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, King Husayn and the Palestinians, Egypt, the Soviet Union, and Syria.

Apparently this initiative has three stages: In the first stage they will try to restore calm in the territories. This is what President Mubarak, in his initiative, refers to as a "cease-fire." Israel will oppose this definition, because a cease-fire is accomplished with the other side—in other words, the Palestinians and the PLO—and Jerusalem cannot accept this. In practice, however, just as the United States mediated a cease-fire between Menahem Begin and the PLO in Lebanon, here too the intention is to attain calm.

The second stage will be devoted to attaining an interim agreement that will include self-administration for the Palestinians while decreasing the IDF presence in the territories and lowering the profile of the occupation. Yitzhaq Shamir will say, and perhaps justly so, that his opinion against the international conference has been accepted, and that we are dealing here with the implementation of the autonomy plan.

On the other hand, Egypt, the PLO, and Jordan, as well as several people in the Labor Party, will claim that Israel is simply taking unilateral steps—unilateral autonomy. Yitzhaq Shamir and Cabinet Secretary Rubinstein, who serves as the prime minister's envoy for sensitive missions (Irangate and the political process), have already admitted in the Cabinet session that there is such a thing as semantic juggling. They said that the U.S. Administration prefers to use the term "interim arrangement," which is more acceptable to the Arab countries and the Palestinians, than the term "autonomy," which Jordan and the Palestinians were not party to achieving in Camp David.

In any event, George Shultz, who is considering the possibility of visiting the region, is striving to facilitate the negotiations and to bring them to a conclusion even this year. His intention is to grant broader authority to the inhabitants of the territories, what has been termed as "broad autonomy". The IDF would withdraw from the large cities and densely populated areas. The inhabitants would have control over the water sources and land. The inhabitants of Jerusalem would be granted the right to participate in elections for the administrative council of the territories. There would be a token presence of Jordanian police in the large cities, and the presence of Jordanian officials in the Jerusalem holy sites.

Autonomy negotiations with Egypt in the past broke up over these bones of contention. The choice in the Middle East is not between good and better, rather between bad and worse. Therefore, it is hard to believe that what wasn't achieved 7 years ago will be achieved now.

In any event, these are extremely serious obstacles on the way to an interim arrangement. The Israeli right will not permit the prime minister to make concessions on these issues. Ministers Sharon and Levi have already hinted their intentions, and this is undoubtedly what Sharon referred to in this week's Cabinet session when he spoke about the need to "neutralize the dangers" before we start negotiations. I think I will not be found wrong if I hazard the assessment that Yitzhaq Shamir's past record of toughness and his opposition to Camp David will not help him here.

Minister Yosef Shapira already hinted at this when he expressed the concern that Shamir's steel is starting to crack. What Ge'ula Kohen did to Menahem Begin when he dared sign the peace treaty with Egypt and gave up the Sinai, Shapira, Gush Emunim, and the Tehiya will do to Shamir.

The third stage is the search for a permanent settlement. Even if the negotiations commence and reach a positive conclusion—and there are more question marks than satisfactory answers regarding this issue—even then the area will be far from calm.

The U.S. Administration has already hinted that parallel to the talks on an interim arrangement it intends to start discussions on the nature of a permanent settlement. King Husayn is demanding this in order not to appear in the eyes of the Syrians and the PLO as though he has actually conceded the territories. Here, too, the intention is to hold accelerated negotiations, and Shim'on Peres has already pinpointed the opening date: December 1988, immediately following the elections in Israel and the United States.

The talk regarding the permanent settlement, in other words, recalls the Reagan plan of September 1982, which speaks about an Israeli-Jordanian arrangement in the framework of which Israel will withdraw from all the territories in exchange for a peace treaty. The beginning or the end of the move—in order to appease King Husayn and satisfy the Soviets—might be in the form of an "international opening," in other words, a variation on the original international conference idea. Husayn, Mubarak, 'Arafat, and Peres will be able to say with a smile: This is an international conference.

It is doubtful whether this third stage will be achieved in the foreseeable future, if ever. The two earlier stages are also very far away.

Levi on Settlements, Deportation Policy

TA021252 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says the government must make it clear to the United States that Israel will not withdraw from the administered territories. Levi was speaking to Jewish settlement leaders in his office in Jerusalem. Steve Rodan was there:

David Levi told the settlement leaders that the government supports them and their need for what he called maximum security. The deputy prime minister, who also serves as housing minister, said his ministry will build thousands of new apartments in the territories during the next fiscal year. In addition, the ministry will pave new roads, one bypassing the Arab town of Qalqilyah and the other in the 'Ezyon bloc.

Levi also spoke about reports of a new U.S. initiative to end the Arab-Israeli conflict. He said Israel remains committed entirely to the Camp David accords, with Palestinian Arabs in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza being granted autonomy. In Levi's words, we won't give up land, water, or the basis of our authority. Our presence in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is not temporary, and we will tell this to our American friends.

Levi also indirectly criticized the Labor Party and, in his strongest statement, said: Whoever sees peace in a Palestinian state or the transfer of the territories to Jordan is not part of the national camp. At the same time, Levi had praise for the policy of Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He said Rabin has been unswerving in his commitment to maintain peace in the territories.

Levi was asked for the reason for the delay in deporting five Palestinians slated to be expelled from Israel. He said the government has not changed its mind in getting rid of these people.

West Bank 'Masses' Reject Shamir Autonomy Plan

TA021842 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 1 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Why Does Shamir Talk About Dead Plans?"]

[Text] A person who reads the Israeli prime minister's remarks about autonomy cannot but ask, what is the logic behind talk about the autonomy plan which has long been buried deep in the earth?

Anyone who reads what Yitzhaq Shamir says about the Egyptian and Jordanian roles in the peace process can easily discover that Israel's prime minister definitely does not read the official notes reaching him from Cairo.

Israel's prime minister talks about Egypt and Jordan as if they are policemen who must carry out what he proposes to them. Jordan has declared and continues to declare that it rejects even mere talk about autonomy because it has never been nor will it ever be a party to it. As for Cairo, it has made its voice heard loudly, saying that the autonomy plan is no longer the right formula for achieving peace in the Middle East.

Yitzhaq Shamir purposely ignores the Arabs' insistence on convening an international conference with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members, as well as all the parties concerned, including the PLO.

In the Israeli prime minister's disregard for the Arab position, he imagines that he is establishing peace with the Finns. Shamir believes that the Arabs and Palestinians are not a major party to something called the Arab-Israeli conflict, but thinks the issue is a Finnish-Israeli dispute.

It seems clear that Shamir's remarks are intended, first, to depict Israel as the country that wants peace; and second, to arouse doubts about the true nature of the Jordanian and Egyptian positions on the best way to bring about a peaceful settlement that would achieve justice for the Palestinians.

It should be pointed out here that Yitzhaq Shamir's talk about autonomy is rejected by the occupied territories' masses who insist on a comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories as a major step to recognizing the Palestinians as owners of land and rights.

Peres Reiterates Call for Jordanian Gaza Role

TA021834 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has come out in favor of an arrangement with Jordan over the Gaza Strip. Speaking to a delegation of conservative Jewish leaders from North America, the foreign minister also warned of social problems that would result if Israel severed all contact with residents of the Strip.

[Begin Peres recording] To reach an agreement with the only organized country that can take care of the situation, and that is the Jordanian Kingdom, reach with them a solution. [sentence as heard] And I think there should be something at the first stage: self-government in Gaza without any foreign army there. I think the frontiers must be open, otherwise the people there will starve. They don't have an alternative source of income. You must understand it. And if Israel... [changes thought] No, it's not only if the Arabs will stop coming to Israel. If Israel will stop letting them to come to Israel, we will clearly create a situation of starvation there. [end recording]

Rabin Comments on Media Coverage of Unrest

TA021346 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that the policy in the territories has proven itself and will be continued. The defense minister said criticism of this policy should not be directed at the IDF since he and the Israeli Government are responsible for it. The defense minister was speaking in a meeting with high school students in the Galilee. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Yitzhaq Rabin said the policy of beatings will continue, and IDF soldiers will continue to use truncheons against rioters during demonstrations. The defense minister said he knows that this policy is not telegenic. All violence is ugly, however, and the truncheons have proven to be effective.

Rabin said we are not looking for an idyllic situation in the territories, but to calm tempers. There is no other way than to give a good beating to those who use violence against us. What would they have us do, he asked, open fire on demonstrators immediately, as they do in Jordan and Syria? You cannot tell a soldier to jump unarmed on rioters and strangle them until they stop going wild. This is the policy, Rabin stressed, adding: The government and I, in my capacity as defense minister, take responsibility for it. This policy was not originated by soldiers in Nabulus and Gaza.

[Rabin] The government is responsible for making decisions. Should the orders be issued in such a way that they will not get into the press? The pictures will be seen anyway. Impressions were made not by words, but by pictures showing confrontations; not by speeches, but by pictures showing confrontations that included beatings according to instructions, although there were irregularities also. I thought that if I demand this from thousands of IDF soldiers, then I must also give them public backing. It would have been easier for me to express myself like an attorney on the use of reasonable force. Try and explain to a soldier facing a crowd of hundreds of stone throwers with hatred all over their faces that he has to disperse them in such a way that they will not want to do it again. It is hard to explain to him the use of reasonable force.

[Hecht] Minister Rabin said that despite the reams of criticism by the foreign press, Israel will not close off the territories to the media. Rabin said U.S. television networks often distort incidents in order to show action. I was in Nabulus, Rabin said, and it was completely quiet. Rabin said U.S. reporters asked him what the situation there was, and he replied: Fine, everything is all right [last four words in English]. But with these words they screened pictures of a violent demonstration in Gaza.

[Rabin] The anchorman reading the report said: The defense minister says fine [last word in English], but look what is happening. They linked two things together, and they know that they did it, they admit it. Meanwhile, the correspondent here says: What do you want from me, they did it in the United States.

[Hecht] The defense minister called on the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza to produce a responsible leadership which will discuss the future of the territories with Israel. He stressed that Israel will not retreat and will not give in to violence, since any solution that will be forced on it because of terrorism and violence is a prescription for another war. This time the aggressors will not be satisfied with the Green Line. [end recording]

Rabin Considers Emerging Palestinian Leadership

TA021622 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The defense minister says that if a Palestinian leadership prepared to negotiate with Israel emerges in the territories, it will be possible to launch talks on an interim settlement for an interim period toward a comprehensive settlement. Minister Rabin is convinced that the countries of the world, led by the United States, would support such a move.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a speech before students in the Galilee, Minister Rabin emphasized that Israel would not give up the defensive boundary along the Jordan River or the Jordan Rift Valley and the Gush 'Ezyon settlements. Israel will likewise insist that Jerusalem remain united.

Further Disturbances Reported in Territories

12 Gazans Under Detention

TA030553 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The Gaza Military Court has confirmed 6-month administrative detention orders against 12 Gaza residents in connection with recent disturbances. One of the detainees is Gaza preacher (Hijazi Burbir), accused of inciting violent demonstrations. He has been jailed several times in the past. Several of those arrested were to be deported, but their punishment was changed to administrative detention. Nineteen administrative detention orders have been filed against Gaza residents since the riots began in December.

'Anabta Woman Dies of Wounds

TA030827 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] A No 61 Egged bus was pelted with rocks near Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem as it was traveling from Gush 'Ezyon to Jerusalem. The bus driver accelerated and the passengers ducked. Most of the windows of the bus were shattered, but no one was hurt.

An Egged spokesman reported that this state of affairs cannot continue, and if no solution is found immediately, Egged will reconsider continuing to render services in Judaea and Samaria.

Steve Rodan, a Voice of Israel English-language department reporter, adds that at this very moment, Border Police personnel are using tear gas canisters and rubber bullets to disperse youths who have congregated near Rachel's Tomb.

A No 25 Egged bus traveling along the Shu'fat road in north Jerusalem was also pelted with rocks. One passenger was injured and taken to Hadassah-Mount Scopus Hospital.

There were also minor stone-throwing incidents this morning in the 'Anata refugee camp north of Jerusalem and in the (Jabal Muqabar) neighborhood in the southeastern part of the city.

('Asmah Sabubah) from the village of 'Anabta, who was wounded 2 days ago by bullets fired during local disturbances, has died of her wounds at Tel Hashomer Hospital. She had suffered serious head injuries, and doctors efforts to save her life failed.

Riots in W. Bank, Jerusalem

TA031007 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] There were violations of the public order in many areas of Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat reports:

[Begin recording] There were disturbances in various places in Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem today. Stones were thrown at an Israeli bus near the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp. The bus halted and its passengers got off the bus and began throwing stones at the camp residents. An IDF unit arrived and dealt with the incident at once.

In Battir, the train traveling to Jerusalem was stoned this morning. In the Mukhayyam al-Sultan refugee camp near Jericho, a Molotov cocktail was hurled at an Israeli vehicle this morning, but no one was hurt. There were stone-throwing and tire-burning incidents in Ramallah and Hebron, but the security forces dealt with them. [passage omitted]

The curfews on Nabulus and on the neighboring refugee camps of old and new 'Askar, Balatah, and 'Ayn Bayt al-Ma' are still in force. The curfew imposed on Bani Na'im, 'Anabta, and the Tulkarm and Al-Jalazun refugee camps also remain in effect. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Our correspondent, who toured the Gaza Strip today, reports that all is quiet there.

Curfews Near Bethlehem

TA031126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The security forces have imposed a curfew on the Al-'Azza and Ayda refugee camps near Bethlehem. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the latter, the security forces used rubber bullets and tear gas to disperse rioters. [passage omitted]

A general commercial strike is under way in Hebron.

In the village of Biddu, north of Jerusalem, stones were thrown this afternoon at a bus transporting schoolchildren from Jerusalem to the settlement of Har Adar. No one was hurt. An IDF unit captured five stone throwers. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the Har Adar residents decided not to send the settlements' 250 schoolchildren to Jerusalem tomorrow until a solution is found to the security problem.

Egypt Agrees To Extend Tabah Talks in Geneva

TA030603 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Egypt and Israel have agreed to extend their efforts to settle the Tabah dispute. A three-member conciliation group meeting in Geneva was due to have ended its work on Monday, but instead has agreed to continue discussions. At issue is the 700-square meter Tabah strip south of Elat.

Peres Asks Greece To Deny 'Deportees Ship' Aid

TA022017 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has asked Greece not to help the vessel referred to as the deportees ship sail to Israel. Mr Peres wrote to his Greek counterpart that this is an act of propaganda which will not contribute to the peace process.

King Husayn Comments on Uprising, Peace Process

DW020741 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German
1 Feb 88 pp 125-129

[Interview with King Husayn by DER SPIEGEL editors Romain Leck and Adel S. Elias at the royal palace in Amman; date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Your Majesty: The Palestinians in the occupied territories have been fighting Israel for 8 weeks. The occupying power was obviously surprised by the rage and persistence of the insurgents. Were you, too?

Husayn: No, it was no surprise to me. There were enough warning signs. After 20 years of oppression and humiliation, you would expect the Palestinians to bring their situation to the world's attention. It is just the beginning. The revolt will involve still more bloodshed unless we redouble our efforts for peace.

SPIEGEL: How do you explain the sudden outbreak of hatred and voilence?

Husayn: For many years, the Palestinian people relied on the Arab states in the hope those governments would help secure their rights. It goes without saying that the Arabs did their best. Then the Palestinians relied on the PLO. However, time went by, conditions deteriorated increasingly, and the people in the occupied territories eventually became so desperate that they were ready for anything.

SPIEGEL: Do you think the revolt will continue, or will Israel's military might manage to break the resistance?

Husayn: Violence—harsh though it may be—cannot destroy a people's longing for their legitimate rights. The only reasonable way out of the situation lies in a reconsideration of all positions and interests. The problem can only be solved if the right of all peoples to their respective states is recognized.

SPIEGEL: Could that be the start of a new Arab-Israeli war, with the enemy inside Israel's borders this time?

Husayn: This movement comes from the occupied territories, and has been stirred up by popular feelings. It is not, as the Israelis claim time and again, a movement controlled from outside.

SPIEGEL: The fact that young Palestinians accept no support from their Arab brothers is striking indeed. Does the new generation of Palestinians still care about the Jordanian king?

Husayn: The Jordanian king will continue to do everything to strengthen the hopes of Palestinians and their rights to their country.

SPIEGEL: Do you still consider the rebels your people? Do you feel responsible for them?

Husayn: Naturally, like everyone in the Arab world, I feel morally responsible. However, I do not have the same sense of responsibility for them that I have for my own subjects. They never were, not even between 1950 and 1967, when the territory east and west of the Jordan was united in a single state.

SPIEGEL: The PLO claims to be the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Do you speak for the oppressed people there, or does Yasir 'Arafat?

Husayn: Under the current circumstances, everyone must try to do his best. It goes without saying that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. However, the PLO must ask itself today if it still clearly understands the wishes and feelings of the Palestinian people. If not, new realities may emerge very soon, realities that would take the PLO and the entire Arab world by surprise. There is a new dynamism in the occupied territories, a sort of unrest that should prompt us all to search our consciences and find the right answers as soon as possible.

SPIEGEL: Is it clear to Arab leaders that violence and wars are not the right answer, and that a solution can only be achieved through negotiations?

Husayn: I believe that the Arabs chose a peaceful solution long ago. The problem now is not that Israel exists, but what it is today.

SPIEGEL: The PLO has yet to express itself that clearly. As such, no Israeli government has been ready to enter into direct negotiations. However, why are you unwilling to start direct talks, as Egypt did in the late seventies?

Husayn: Today Egypt shares our view that the problems were not solved. No Arab leader is authorized to speak or act alone on behalf of the Palestinians. The Palestinian problem should be discussed on two levels—among the Palestinian people themselves, with their sole legitimate representative, the PLO, but also with the governments of those Arab countries that support the PLO. Egypt sees things the same way.

SPIEGEL: Egypt recovered the Sinai through indirect negotiations. You lost more in the 6-Day War, and have yet to get anything back.

Husayn: I will tell you a little secret. I challenged the United States repeatedly after 1967 by saying: If you can guarantee that I will recover all my lost territory, including East Jerusalem, I will be ready to go with you in any direction that will lead to that goal. However, I know that the United States can never promise me that. Under no circumstances will I march in a direction that will only complicate efforts to solve the entire problem. We would have very few problems with the occupied territories if only Jordan were involved. However, Jordan is committed to the Palestinian and Arab causes.

SPIEGEL: There have been reports that you have met frequently in secret with senior Israeli politicians, Shim'on Peres, for instance. Are they correct?

Husayn: My response is that the only forum for negotiations between the Israelis and ourselves is an international peace conference, which we are trying to achieve.

SPIEGEL: Perhaps you tested the waters for that conference with some discreet meetings?

Husayn: It is only natural to test the waters. Everyone does it. We do it, and the Israelis do as well. There are many ways to test the positions of one's partners and opponents. However, we can achieve a solution only through negotiations, and negotiations will take place only through an international peace conference.

SPIEGEL: There has been talk of such a conference for years with no effect. What procedure do you suggest?

Husayn: The basis lies in the two known UN resolutions—242, which rules out the military occupation of any territory, and 338, which urges a resolution of the problem under the auspices of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. The Gulf war is an example of how the five have tried to settle a dangerous crisis in the region. Why shouldn't they be able to approach the Palestinian problem now?

SPIEGEL: There are some seemingly insurmountable obstacles in the way right now. Here is one: Israel will accept Soviet participation only if Moscow reestablishes diplomatic relations with Jerusalem, and if it will allow Soviet Jews to emigrate. Would you agree to have more Jews emigrate to Israel, if only to give the Soviets a chance to participate in the conference?

Husayn: That is a strange and completely unrealistic way for the Israelis to deal with the problem. In the past, 1973, they did not refuse to take part in an international conference on the Near East under the supervision of the two superpowers, despite the fact that Israel had no relations with the Soviet Union at the time. Last fall the Americans again suggested that instead of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the two superpowers alone should work on an answer for the Palestinian problem. Israel agreed.

SPIEGEL: But you did not.

Husayn: We would rather have the five take part. That would prevent any polarization of the problem between the two superpowers and those parties that gather around them. If Israel rejects that, it is only a tactical maneuver to sidestep a most pressing problem. We must take action at once, before time runs out and before the fatal psychological moment comes when all hope is lost. At that point, the region would face a catastrophe.

SPIEGEL: The PLO's participation is another obstacle.

Husayn: The PLO should be invited. However, the following criteria must be valid for all those taking part: Acceptance of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, the renunciation of force, and a readiness to resolve the Palestinian problem as a whole, with all its implications.

SPIEGEL: In 1985 you suggested the establishment of a joint Jordanian- Palestinian delegation. Is that still valid?

Husayn: Naturally. We made that proposal only to safeguard the participation of the Palestinians against the strong resistance of the United States and the Israeli Government.

SPIEGEL: Who determines which Palestinians will be part of the joint delegation, you or 'Arafat? The Israelis reject everyone they consider a terrorist.

Husayn: That is a question of criteria. If terrorism is a reason to exclude someone, then don't the Arabs, too, have a right to check out the Israelis taking part? I think the PLO should be invited, and if it comes determined to solve the problem, it should be welcomed, just as the Israelis and their contribution to peace are welcome.

SPIEGEL: The Soviet Union would strengthen the Arab position at such a gathering. What, on the other hand, do you expect from the United States? Do you really believe that the Americans will put pressure on Israel?

Husayn: Unfortunately, we have seen recently how extremists in Israel have increased their influence on U.S. decisionmakers. That has seriously hampered American policy. I hope the United States will be shaken by the events in Palestine and will finally assume its responsibilities.

SPIEGEL: Clearly, the international peace conference will not take place this year, before the elections in Israel and the United States. Meanwhile, the Palestinian tragedy in the occupied territories continues. Egypt's President Mubarak has called for a 6-month moratorium on violence and oppression. For their part, 'Arafat and Syria say the revolt must go on.

Husayn: Mubarak wants to make the world deal with our tragedy as soon as possible. He links the renunciation of violence with the quick convocation of a peace conference.

SPIEGEL: 'Arafat has proposed that a UN peace-keeping force be responsible for the security of Palestinians under Israeli rule.

Husayn: That is 'Arafat's proposal. I do not know what will become of it.

SPIEGEL: Israeli Foreign Minister Peres has offered Jordan control of the Gaza Strip. Would you be ready to send Jordanian troops and police there?

Husayn: We have not considered that, and have not been asked to do so, either. The situation in the Gaza Strip, which is especially tense, cannot be separated from the situation in western Jordan and the other occupied territories. We need a definitive solution, not an interim one.

SPIEGEL: Are you afraid that stones would be thrown at your soldiers in the Gaza Strip, as has happened to the Israelis?

Husayn: I do not think you will see our troops there.

SPIEGEL: What would a definitive solution to the Palestinian problem look like? Should a peace conference lead to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the west bank of the Jordan, or should it result in a confederation between the Palestinians and Jordan? Or do you simply want your land back?

Husayn: No, that option has always been our last choice. We want to help the people of the occupied territories recover their right to self-determination. People have the right to choose what they want. There are quite a few ties between Jordanians and Palestinians. They belong to the same family.

SPIEGEL: After all, you issue Jordanian passports to Palestinians from those territories.

Husayn: We do that in order to help.

SPIEGEL: The PLO suspects that you do not want a Palestinian state at all. Indeed, would such a state not be a danger to your country and rule? More than half the people of Jordan are Palestinian.

Husayn: No, that does not concern us. That is something the Israelis maintain to foment discord.

SPIEGEL: However, the PLO tried to oust you in September 1970. Would you truly be willing to share power with 'Arafat's followers, in a confederation, for instance?

Husayn: What we went through in September 1970 was a tragedy. However, we must not forget that there were Palestinians and Jordanians on both sides of the conflict. It was a question of survival for this country and its people. It was essential that peace and order be restored; that was what the Jordanian people wanted. Now as before, people in Jordan are Palestinian and Jordanian at the same time.

SPIEGEL: Israelis on the right support a very simple solution; namely, to expel the Palestinians from the occupied territories across the Jordan. There is already a Palestinian state—Jordan.

Husayn: That would not solve anything. The rights of the Palestinians and the occupation of Palestinian territory are what constitute the problem. This problem cannot be exported. Besides, Jordan is not an unpopulated country.

SPIEGEL: But is Palestinian nationalism not a common enemy for Jordan and Israel?

Husayn: That is again one of those Israeli insinuations. I am as much a Palestinian as every Palestinian. I believe that there is a common factor that unites all Arabs—Arab nationalism.

SPIEGEL: We can well understand that you find it difficult to talk with Israel's nationalist Likud representatives. Would you prefer if, after the Israeli elections, you only had to deal with the workers party?

Husayn: I cannot tell the Israelis and the Jews for whom they should vote. I can only hope that they will make a reasonable and responsible choice, with a view to the near future.

SPIEGEL: No Israeli, regardless of how peaceful, will be prepared ever to renounce Jerusalem again. Can you imagine that the Arabs will leave that sacred town to the Jews?

Husayn: Jerusalem is only a small town, but it is of great importance to all who believe in God. Jerusalem is a political problem of large dimensions. It must not become a political football. It cannot be resolved as long as Arab rights are not recognized there. No one can contest the fact that there is an Arab part of Jerusalem, a part that has been occupied since 1967. It is our religious duty to make Jerusalem the symbol of peace, the symbol of unity between the religious and the Almighty. In that holy town, the rights of all should be maintained and respected.

SPIEGEL: Do you really believe that there is a peaceful resolution to these almost insoluble problems? Is not every compromise that would satisfy Israel unacceptable to the Arabs? Will Israel ever give in as long as it does not consider the situation untenable?

Husayn: It is about to become untenable.

SPIEGEL: Militarily, Israel is capable of dealing with every possible adversary in the region.

Husayn: Let me look forward to the end of the century. Even if no violent eruption has taken place by then, what will the ratio between Jews and Arabs in the occupied territories be at that time? Let me look back at the establishment of Israel. The basic idea behind that state was that the Jews should have a homeland so that they would never again be persecuted and handled like second-class people. What does it mean morally if Israel now treats other people the same way?

On the other hand, can Israel grant political rights to the Arabs in the occupied territories? If it did this, then what would become of the Jewish state? We are being confronted with all of these problems at a very close range; they are concentrated within a very narrow area.

If no peaceful solution is found, then there may soon come a time when neither Israel nor we here around Israel will be able to supply the people with potable water. Without peace, the future is dark. We are quickly nearing the moment when hope will be lost. When that happens, there will be no more room for me or for others to look for a solution. Then may God have mercy on all of us—Arab and Jew.

SPIEGEL: Your Majesty, we thank you for this interview.

Amman Reports Interview

JN311649 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Bonn—His Majesty King Husayn has said that UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 must be the basis of an international conference for peace in the Middle East. After all, they state that land may not be acquired by force, and call for a settlement under appropriate auspices, such as the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. His majesty added that the question is not one of territory occupied in 1967, but of finding a solution to the Palestine issue as a whole.

In an interview to be published tomorrow by the FRG magazine DER SPIEGEL, his majesty declared: We favor a conference under the auspices of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, as that would avoid the danger of polarization. These states must discharge their responsibilities concerning the achievement of peace in the Middle East before we reach the psychological point of depair and catastrophe strikes the entire region. The PLO must be invited to the gathering. The requirements that must be set for participation in the conference are as follows: Recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the renunciation of violence, and an expressed readiness to accept a solution for all aspects of the Palestinian problem.

His Majesty King Husayn added that the Palestinian question must be settled in conjunction with the problem of the occupied Arab territories on two levels: first, by dealing with the Palestinian people, who are represented solely by the PLO, and second, by dealing with those Arab governments that support the PLO.

His majesty pointed out that there are several examples of involvement by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council in settling serious international problems. As such, why don't those countries work to solve the Palestinian question?

When asked about the proposal to form a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference, his majesty replied: We still working within the Jordanian-Palestinian agreement, which produced that proposal. I would like to say that we proposed and highlighted this only to enable the Palestinians to take part in a resolution of their cause. We did so in the face of major obstacles created by the United States and Israel. We proposed that the PLO be invited as a partner with equal rights. On this premise, the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should be formed by the two sides on an equal footing.

His majesty touched on the status of Jerusalem, noting: This problem will not be solved unless the Arabs' rights in the city are recognized. The existence of an Arab part of the city, which was occupied in 1967, is an established fact. We have a religious duty to make Jerusalem the cradle of peace, and a symbol of unity between all believers and their Creator. We must guarantee the rights of all parties in this holy city.

Turning to the Soviet and American roles in finding a solution to the problem, he said that the USSR, as a superpower, has an important part to play. King Husayn added: The United States has a good many interests in the region. However, the problem with the United States is that its alleged evenhandedness never appears in practice. That is the heart of the tragedy. I trust that, aware of their responsibilities, America's friends will pull their weight. I was distressed recently to see the sway that Israeli extremists have over U.S. decisionmakers, which has paralyzed the United States.

He explained that Europe has many vested interests in the region, on top of its proximity. That has always been the case. Europe has a great part to play in the maintenance of international peace and stability.

Replying to a question on the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, His Majesty King Husayn pointed out: It is a reaction to continued Israeli occupation and repression, a fact that Israel and the entire world now recognize. The uprising has been driven by the feelings of the people, contrary to Israel's claims that it is controlled from beyond the occupied territories. I believe that no amount of military might can conquer a people's yearning for their legitimate rights. A new dynamism is fast taking shape in the occupied territories.

His majesty added: What we must do now is reexamine all attitudes, and tackle the problem in a way that recognizes the rights of all peoples to their homelands. He declared that he will continue to work, as his forefathers did, to promote the Palestinian people's aspirations and rights to their homeland. Jordan, his majesty noted, is committed to the Palestinian and Arab causes. We will stay involved in this conflict until we reach a final solution providing for a just, lasting, and comprehensive peace. His majesty stressed the importance of the bonds uniting the Arab nation.

Paper Claims U.S. Plan Part of 'Conspiracy'

JN021105 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
2 Feb 88 pp 2, 15

[News analysis by Rakan al-Majali: "The Uprising and the American Proposals"]

[Text] The Americans have a new plan, which has not been officially released. However, its broadlines have been covered by various sources. The plan's major point is a return to the idea of self-rule. The American plan or proposals reflect a single fact: The United States is not serious about helping to find a peaceful solution for the region. The plan also shows several faces of U.S. policy, which can be summarized as follows:

1. Recently, and during the popular uprising, a number of U.S.-Zionist agreements were concluded. The accords include one for the production of an advanced missile, and one committing the United States to Israel's security. Moreover, the American position is identical to the Zionist stand, or, more likely, the position of Zionist extremists. This stand satisfies the aspirations of Shamir, who welcomed the American initiative, claiming that self-rule is the only solution. While writing on the American plan, the Israeli press said that, had Shamir himself drafted this initiative, it could not have been as clear or well planned. Obviously, the current U.S. Administration takes only Israel's interests into account. Even the proposals or humble aspirations to get the regional peace process moving, which were voiced by such a friend of America as the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, fell on deaf ears.

2. Now as in the past, American policy is based on attempts to control the region and reach a strategic accord under the United States and the Zionist entity on the pretext of opposing the Soviet Union. This logic comes into play whenever Arab weakness or regional disturbances provide a suitable opportunity. The policy of imposing hegemony is not even founded on the principle of old colonialist alliances, but rather on the imposition of total surrender and subservience.

3. Self-rule was contained in the first part of Camp David, which dealt with the Palestinian issue. The second part covered Egyptian-Israeli relations, and took effect when Egypt and Israel signed the document. Then came the exchange of ambassadors, the normalization of relations, and Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai. The major part of Camp David remained ink on paper, for it was absolutely rejected by the entire Arab nation. The majority of people considered self-rule a dead issue, although it remained a constant Israeli slogan. However, America's new plan raises the question again, although we know in advance that the program will be rejected.

4. The presentation of this new plan is a clear attempt to circumvent recent UN Security Council resolutions, which stressed the Palestinian people's rights, defined the occupied Arab territories as those places completely occupied by an occupying force, and asserted the Arab nature of Jerusalem. The world cannot ignore the facts or logic which the uprising has pushed to the fore. This logic makes it clear that there can be no peace without an end to occupation, complete liberation of all territories, and the removal of all forms of usurpation. As they are in the UN Security Council, the United States and the Zionist entity will be alone on this new initiative, which seeks to undermine the notion of a comprehensive settlement and international action for a solution. However, this answer will be imposed by the will of resistance and struggle, and by the will and conscience of the world.

5. The American proposals, and any similar initiatives at this point, are designed to defuse the uprising, foment political disturbances, and muddy the waters. However, the blood that lit the way in 'Anabta yesterday, the tens of thousands besieged in camps and villages, as well as those who stepped up the revolution yesterday and the Arab nation as a whole, are not ready to listen to the American proposals. Indeed, the sole objective of the American initiative is to insult the Arabs and halt their struggle.

6. Even if the United States is serious about these proposals, the Arabs should not pay any attention to them. They should not spark any disputes or debates, as their only goal may be to touch off Arab differences, engage the Arabs in a Byzantine argument, and gamble on the mirage of solutions and other related details, amendments, and proposals.

The important point here is that this plan is part of the conspiracy. It reflects an extremist Zionist stand, nothing more, nothing less.

Further Reportage on Murder of Frenchman

Victim's Identity Clarified

NC022106 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Feb 2 (AFP)—Two gunmen firing from point-blank range Tuesday killed a Frenchman, identified as an intelligence agent, in Christian-controlled East Beirut, Lebanese police said.

Jacques Merrin, 27, was an official of France's Direction Generale des Services Exterieurs (DGSE), or secret service, said an official in Paris who asked not to be named.

A Western diplomat here also reported that the slain Frenchman was a DGSE agent, though the French Embassy had earlier identified him as Jacques Meurant, a tobacco industry sales representative.

Mr. Merrin was shot three times just after getting into his car, a red BMW 320, in a sector of East Beirut controlled by the Christian militia Lebanese Forces and the Army, police and witnesses said.

A fish vendor who witnessed the killing told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE the two assailants were waiting in a blue Peugeot 504.

Armed with silencer-equipped machine pistols, they shot the victim once in the neck, then when he collapsed out the door onto the sidewalk, pumped two more bullets into his chest. They fled in the Peugeot, he said. The attack occurred at 1:00 p.m. local time near the Justice Ministry, not far from the line dividing Christian and Moslem sectors of the Lebanese capital.

Police investigators said Mr. Merrin was slain just minutes after conferring with Jamil Ni'mat, director of Lebanese Internal Security.

The Western diplomat said Mr. Merrin had been posted in Beirut for a few months. The Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio identified him as the DGSE's deputy chief in Lebanon.

The Lebanese Forces issued a statement saying the Peugeot used by the assailants entered the eastern sector from Moslem West Beirut via the Lebanese Army-controlled museum crossing, the sole passage linking the two halves of the city. They provided no evidence.

In Paris, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac expressed "consternation" and "incomprehension" at the killing.

"I can only note that initiatives taken outside Lebanon have dramatic consequences on that country," he said in a live television interview.

France's ambassador to Beirut, Paul Blanc, said he was "extremely pained."

"One more time, a Frenchman is killed during his stay in Lebanon. It is again the death of a Frenchman, and we feel this death." [passage omitted]

'Rumored' Security Agent

LD022041 Paris Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A Frenchman was killed in Beirut this morning. His name was Jacques Merrin and he was a trade representative. He often made business trips to Lebanon. That is one version of his activities, but it was learned in Paris this evening that Jacques Merrin was reportedly an agent of the DGSE [General Directorate for External Security], the French espionage service. [passage omitted] Bernard Brigouleix comments:

[Brigouleix] Was he a simple trade representative, a tobacco industry specialist, as the French Embassy is calmly maintaining, or an agent of the DGSE, in other words, an official of the French secret service who had been in post for some months, as is being rumored less and less discreetly in Western circles in Beirut? It is still the case that Jacques Merrin met his death early this afternoon from the bullets of unidentified killers who fled in a Peugeot 504. In fact, within the circles of the Lebanese Forces, in other words, the Christian militia of Beirut, it is indicated that he was the number two man of the DGSE in Lebanon. It also seems that at the time of the attack Jacques Merrin was coming out of the office of Jamil Ni'mah, the director of the Lebanese General Security Department. This means that all theories are permitted, in particular and above all the one stating that a secret agent, if there was a secret agent, was reportedly involved in the negotiations on the release of the French hostages in Lebanon.

DGSE Affiliation Confirmed

LD030822 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Jacques Merrin, who was assassinated in Beirut yesterday, was indeed a DGSE [French Secret Service] agent. This has been confirmed by the Defense Ministry in Paris, without saying anything else on his mission. It is only known that the documents he was carrying at the time have disappeared, probably stolen by his attackers.

Gunmen Entered Via Museum Road

NC022037 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon Arabic 1945 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to security sources, the armed group which assassinated Frenchman Merrin today entered East Beirut by the Museum Road and left the area by the same way after carrying out the operation within 15 minutes.

Command Council Statement

NC021800 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The Lebanese Forces Command Council, meeting this evening with Dr Samir Ja'ja', issued the following statement: The assassination of a French national this morning, as he emerged from a meeting at the General Directorate of Public Security, falls within the framework of terrorist acts aimed against foreign nationals in general, and French nationals in particular. This act is rejected and condemned; it was perpetrated in order to disturb security in the free eastern area.

This act, which was planned in terrorists' cellars in the occupied areas of Lebanon and carried out in free East Beirut, was not meant to threaten only the security of foreign and French nationals, but was also meant to disrupt the security of official Lebanese establishments, the security of free Lebanese areas, and the friendly ties between the Lebanese and French peoples.

The objective and source of the latest attack against a French national in Lebanon are well known. The attack primarily aims to prompt French and foreign nationals to leave Lebanon, particularly the free areas, in order to deprive Lebanon of its international friendships, diplomatic missions, and foreign nationals. It also seeks to give the Syrian occupation the upper hand in Lebanon and to prevent any friendly party from helping with Lebanon's crisis.

The Lebanese Forces denounce and condemn this terrorist act and call on the competent Lebanese authorities to uncover the perpetrators of this crime and those aiding them. The Lebanese forces want to draw the world's attention to the fact that stopping international terrorism against Lebanon and its foreign residents cannot be brought about by demonstrating lenience and tolerance toward the sponsors of international terrorism and terrorist networks. Only by taking a firm and decisive stand against the perpetrators and sponsors of terrorism, and by helping the forces opposed to terrorism to uncover and destroy terrorist organizations and networks will terrorism stop.

The Lebanese Forces offer heartfelt condolences to the family of the departed and share with the French Government and people their pain and grief.

French Embassy on 'Measures'

NC022027 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Excerpt] French Ambassador Paul Blanc told the Voice of Lebanon this evening that the embassy has identified the victim as a sales representative, and has described the incident as an assassination. He said he feels that French nationals in all parts of Lebanon are in jeopardy, noting that the French Government does not discriminate in its dealings with East and West Beirut. The ambassador added that the French Embassy will not remain idle and that it is studying the necessary, appropriate measures that should be taken. [passage omitted]

Junblatt Discusses Visit to USSR, Presidency

NC011119 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 30 Jan 88 p 3

[Interview granted by PSP leader Walid Junblatt to Bisharah Ghanim al-Bun in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Bun] Regarding your visit to Moscow, is there anything new in the Soviet stand on Lebanon and the region?

[Junblatt] The main topic during the talks was the Soviet Union's insistence on the international conference as an approach to resolving the Middle East crisis. However, this matter depends on the next U.S. and Israeli elections and it needs time, a year or two. Still, there is hope that incidents in the West Bank and Gaza will create a favorable atmosphere for political action on both the Arab and international levels.

As for the Lebanese issue, we presented a joint working paper with the [Lebanese] Communist Party on our ideas for solving the Lebanese problem. The paper is derived from the political reform papers, beginning with Kamal Junblatt's reform plan through the tripartite agreement.

[Al-Bun] Did you sense a certain Soviet concept of how to solve the Lebanese issue?

[Junblatt] The Soviets do not have a definite concept. They support inter-Lebanese reconciliation and are willing to play any necessary role to bring it about.

[Al-Bun] Recent Moscow policy has been marked by an openness to Christians, whether through the invitation of the Maronite patriarch to visit the Soviet Union or through the initiation of a dialogue with the "Lebanese Forces." Is there any Soviet activity to bring Lebanese points of view closer together?

[Junblatt] What you say is true, and we welcome any effort to achieve reconciliation, either by the Soviet Union or other friends like Syria. The country can take no more on the political, economic, and social levels. There must be action instead of waiting for a new president.

[Al-Bun] There is fear that Lebanon may be the scene of military incidents and developments in the next few months, prior to elections.

[Junblatt] I do not think any of the parties would stand to gain from a military escalation, unless Ja'ja' renews the threat, and then he will bear the responsibility. We do not agree with him on the qualities he seeks in a president, or on the use of the "veto" should the candidate be pro-Syrian...

[Al-Bun] What qualities do you require in an acceptable candidate for the presidency of the republic?

[Junblatt] We will support a nationalist, Arab, and reformist candidate who will establish distinctive, clearly defined relations with Syria.

[Al-Bun] Will the elections be held according to schedule?

[Junblatt] Yes.

[Al-Bun] Do you support a Maronite president?

[Junblatt] My own view is that the Maronite regime has proved itself a failure since 1943. Therefore, I am for a Christian president. However, should it be unavoidable, let him be Maronite in order to reassure the Maronites and Christians, provided that Muslims are in turn given political, economic, and social assurances.

[Al-Bun] Who is Walid Junblatt's candidate for the presidency?

[Junblatt] Spare me the question and the answer.

[Al-Bun] You spoke of certain qualities. Who among the candidates has these qualities?

[Junblatt] What is required is both a program and a president to handle the crisis. Otherwise, we will just be trying to please someone.

[Al-Bun] Some demand an agreement on the basis of reconciliation before the elections.

[Junblatt] The question is: With whom? Amin al-Jumayyil? All previous experience has proven that he is not trustworthy. With Ja'ja'? He has dreams similar to those of Bashir al-Jumayyil.

[Al-Bun] What is to be done?

[Junblatt] We hope that some patriotic Christian figures, like Patriarch Sfayr, will make efforts in the eastern areas to exhort and persuade all parties there that it is necessary to achieve reconciliation and carry out reforms. The Army has proven helpless and a small tool in the hands of the intelligence service. Before anything else, the Army must uncover the murderers of Prime Minister Karami.

[Al-Bun] What role is Bkirki [the Maronite Patriarchate] required to play?

[Junblatt] We want Bkirki to play a more active and effective role.

[Al-Bun] The criticism you have leveled against the Christian church, however, has raised numerous questions within church circles in Lebanon and even in the Vatican.

[Junblatt] Regrettably, some Christian authorities in Lebanon have not yet understood the new political, economic, and social facts in Lebanon. These figures still cling to theories from the past, at a time when the situation in Lebanon has changed radically.

[Al-Bun] Which authorities?

[Junblatt] Al-Kaslik [Maronite religious and cultural institution] and some Catholics who still cling to medieval theories advocating sectarian alliances. These authorities do not want to accept the new developments in the south, the southern suburb, Al-Biqa', 'Akkar, and other areas. Political sharing is needed now more than ever before. We must have a separation of church and state. Our plan calls for the election of a new nonsectarian Chamber of Deputies elected on a constituency basis and in which political parties (from the right and left) would participate. The plan also calls for the establishment of a sectarian senate where various sects would have proportional representation and which would have the authority to make decisions on issues vital to the country.

[Al-Bun] Does your criticism also include some Islamic authorities?

[Junblatt] We cannot build a homeland on the basis of Islamic or Christian republics. We want an Arab and democratic Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Al-Bun] Will there be any new developments regarding the Syrian policy on Lebanon?

[Junblatt] Ask the Syrians. Syria has tried hard to bring about a reconciliation. These attempts, however, have been thwarted by U.S. policy and Israeli agents inside Lebanon. Syria gave Amin al-Jumayyil historic chances. He has met with President al-Asad 11 times. In addition, there were the Geneva and Lausanne conferences and the ministerial meetings. None of these, however, achieved any results.

[Al-Bun] Does this mean there is no hope of a new Syrian-Christian dialogue?

[Junblatt] The Syrian-Christian dialogue is necessary and natural.

[Al-Bun] Why has Syria failed to guarantee security in the areas where its Army is deployed, particularly in Beirut, where there have been some violations (the recent kidnapping of the German national)?

[Junblatt] The violations are the result of factors beyond the control of the Syrians in Beirut. We must not forget the weight of the burden on Syria's shoulders. In addition, there are countries that want to thwart the Syrian role.

[Al-Bun] Do you mean Iran?

[Junblatt] They are Arab, Islamic, and foreign countries. The situation must be dealt with firmly, even if this proves costly.

[Al-Bun] How do you view the spread of Iranian influence in Lebanon? Do you think this poses a danger to Lebanon?

[Junblatt] Iran is a major Islamic country. While we adhere to Arabism and democracy, we cannot forget that the Islamic revolution is a legitimate Islamic concept. We must wait and see who will triumph.

[Al-Bun] What about the plan to establish an Islamic republic in Lebanon?

[Junblatt] Such a thing may lead to partition and fragmentation of the country. "Hizballah" officials hold the same opinion and maintain that the Islamic view is being misinterpreted.

[Al-Bun] Then you oppose an Islamic republic?

[Junblatt] It will not work. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Envoy Arrives in Beirut on 2-Day Visit

NC291237 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Mustafa al-Madani, Sudanese presidential envoy and roving ambassador, arrived in Beirut today on a 2-day visit, during which he will give President Amin al-Jumayyil a message from Sudanese leader Ahmad al-Mirghani.

The Sudanese envoy met with Fu'ad al-Turk, Foreign Ministry secretary general, at noon today. Al-Madani stated after the meeting that one of the objectives of his visit is to discuss President al-Jumayyil's visit to Khartoum. He reiterated that his country will soon reopen its embassy in Beirut.

Meets President al-Jumayyil

NC291450 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] At 1515 today, President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil received Mustafa al-Madani, the personal envoy of the Sudanese State Council president, who arrived in Beirut at noon. Al-Madani renewed the invitation Sudanese President Ahmad al-Mirghani had extended to President al-Jumayyil at the Amman summit. He noted that the president has accepted the invitation.

The Sudanese envoy is scheduled to meet with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni this afternoon.

Murdered Iraqi Linked to Talks for Terry Waite

PM011537 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Jan 88 p 1

['Ali Nun Report: "British Church Neither Confirms Nor Denies Al-Hakim's Mediation for Waite Release"]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Anglican Church in London has refused to comment on information obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT indicating that Mahdi Muhsin al-Hakim—an Iraqi opposition leader who maintained a strong link with Iran and was assassinated last Sunday evening [22 January] in Khartoum by persons not yet identified—had embarked on a futile mediation attempt in Beirut to secure the release of Terry Waite, the church's envoy who was kidnapped in Beirut.

Church spokeswoman Eve Kingsley refused to confirm the report; she was content to tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that she had heard about Al-Hakim's assassination but knew nothing about his mediation in Terry Waite's case.

Sources close to Al-Hakim revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that, for the first time since Waite was kidnapped at the beginning of last year in West Beirut, Al-Hakim went to London several months ago and offered Anglican Archbishop Dr Robert Runcie his mediation in trying to secure the British envoy's release on purely humanitarian grounds "and without being prompted by any quarter." Runcie warmly welcomed the initiative, responding fully and expressing his readiness to support the efforts to be made to solve the problem.

The sources confirmed that Al-Hakim presented this initiative to Dr Runcie at a meeting requested by him and held last summer at the Anglican Church headquarters, Lambeth Palace, in the center of the British capital.

After the meeting, Al-Hakim headed for a certain destination outside British territory. The sources believe that he visited Lebanon and returned a few days later, but it seemed that he had not succeeded in his endeavor. The same sources knew nothing about the results of the mediation, either from him directly or through mediation. The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that after that he kept totally silent and did not discuss the subject at all. They also said that a few days ago Dr Runcie sent his condolences in a message to Al-Hakim's family in London, in which he indicated that he had met him previously.

Group Claims Attacks on Syrians in Tripoli

NC021511 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for detonating two explosive charges in Tripoli yesterday. The first was targeted against a Syrian occupation army center in Al-Baddawi and the second against another center on Al-Qubbah Road near the Bahjat Ghanim Barracks.

The same organization has also claimed to have attacked a Syrian occupation army checkpoint in (Al-'Ayruniyah) on the Al-Dinniyah Road last Sunday. According to a spokesman for the organization, the attack caused many casualties among the Syrian soldiers.

Further Reportage on Resistance, SLA Clashes

'Ferocious' Battle 30 Jan

NC302034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The martyrs 'Ali Madi and 'Adnan Milhim group of the Lebanese resistance attacked the agents' positions in 'Ayn al-Hawr at 1700 today. A ferocious 15-minute battle ensued, in which various types of machineguns and rockets were used. The resistance men succeeded in destroying a number of barricades; they also killed or injured those manning them. Meanwhile, a resistance artillery unit pounded the agents' position in Tumat Niha with 82-mm mortar fire, scoring direct hits and inflicting heavy losses on the post's personnel. The resistance group returned safely to base.

Confrontation in Maydun Area

NC311522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] A violent confrontation took place shotly before noon today in the Maydun area, in western Al-Biqa', between the Islamic resistance, on the one hand, and a joint force of the Israeli enemy and agent Lahd's militia, on the other. Various light- and heavy-caliber weapons, including tank guns, were used in the clash. Two Israeli enemy helicopters also took part in the battle.

At 1015 today, a combined Israeli armored force and agent Lahd militia force consisting of 14 vehicles and 120 men headed from Birkat Jabbur, in the security strip, toward Maydun, advancing about 2 km into the liberated areas. An Islamic resistance force intercepted it; a fierce battle ensued, which lasted until 1230 today. The resistance fighters were able to foil the attack and force the enemy troops to retreat to the security strip. There were no casualties among the resistance fighters.

The enemy artillery then shelled Maydun and 'Ayn al-Tinah villages, damaging a number of houses but causing no casualties.

Losses Inflicted

NC011041 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Resistance fighters, using rockets and artillery, attacked positions of the Lahd militias in the areas of 'Ali al-Tahir, Bra'shit, Rshaf, and Shaqif last night and this morning, killing and wounding a number of militiamen. The militias' radio admitted the operations, saying two men were wounded in 'Ali al-Tahir and another in Bra'shit.

Resistance Attacks Bayt Yahun

NC021100 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] An Islamic resistance group stormed a position of the agent militias in Bayt Yahun at dawn today. The group was able to control the position for some time after violent clashes with those manning it. The group destroyed an adjacent building used by the militias' security soldiers, two M-113 tanks, a range-rover car, and a civilian car.

The resistance men also pounded with artillery and Katyusha rockets two agent positions in (Shaqif al-Naml) and Haddathah in the Bayt Jubayl area for 1 hour, inflicting casualties among the agents.

The agents' radio has admitted the dawn attack, saying that the resistance men took control of the position for 20 minutes. It also admitted that two agent soldiers were wounded and claimed that two resistance fighters were killed.

The militias have also admitted that an explosive charge went off when an agent patrol was passing through Hasbayya yesterday. One vehicle was destroyed, and its driver was seriously wounded. In retaliation for this operation, the Israeli enemy's artillery shelled the neighboring villages.

SLA Repulses Bayt Yahun Attack

NC020702 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] repulsed an attack by a large number of terrorists against the Bayt Yahun position at around midnight last night. The terrorists also carried out diversionary attacks on the (Qays al-Naml) and Bra'shit positions. A violent battle took place in which all kinds of weapons were used. The SLA forced the gunmen to retreat, leaving behind dead and wounded. The gunmen later tried to return to evacuate their casualties, but their attempt failed.

According to reports, the SLA has begun a combing operation to remove the bodies of the terrorists which remain on the battleground. Arms and ammunition have also been found. The SLA suffered no casualties.

Jordanian Premier Pays 'Unannounced' Visit

LD311016 Kuwait KUNA in English 0857 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Dubayy, Jan 31 (KUNA)—Jordanian Premier Zayd al-Rifa'i paid an unannounced visit to Damascus in which he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, daily AL-BAYAN published here Sunday said.

Al-Rifa'i, who delayed last Thursday discussions with the Palestinian committee for new dialogue with Jordan, briefed Syrian president on the results reached by Jordanian King Husayn during a visit to Baghdad, Iraq, in an attempt to heal the wounds between Iraq and Syria.

Al-Shar' Returns From Tehran, Makes Statement

JN311917 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a message to Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with the situation in the Gulf. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered the message when the Iranian president received him this morning. The meeting was attended by Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Syrian charge d'affaires in Tehran, and Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Mohammad Hasan Akhtari.

Faruq al-Shar' met with Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati this morning. In the meeting, they discussed a number of issues of mutual concern and the situation in the Gulf region. The two countries' views were in agreement regarding the importance of easing tension in the Gulf and following up Syrian efforts to render the dialogue a success and establish relations of good-neighborliness and friendship between the Arab states in the Gulf and Iran.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after ending his brief visit to Tehran.

Before departing Tehran, he made a statement on the results of the Syrian efforts to bring views closer between the Arab states in the Gulf and Iran. Al-Shar' said: Today, I conveyed a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to President 'Ali Khamene'i dealing with the situation in the Gulf and developments in the region in general.

Al-Shar' added: Views were identical on supporting and enhancing the heroic popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist entity and also on the importance of consolidating and promoting the political dialogue between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Arab states in the Gulf. The talks during our tour of the Arab states in the Gulf dealt with this issue.

The minister continued: During this tour we sensed from the leaders of the Arab states in the Gulf region and also from the officials in Tehran a common desire and eagerness for dialogue and negotiations to resolve all the existing problems in the region in a way that will achieve security and stability for this region's peoples away from any outside interference.

Al-Shar' said: We also sensed the Iranian officials' desire to ease and remove tension from the Gulf, to render dialogue a success, and to achieve the results that express the aspirations of the region's states and peoples.

Al-Asad Chairs Progressive Front Meeting

JN011740 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The Central Command of the National Progressive Front held a meeting at 1300 today under the chairmanship of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. The Central Command reviewed recent international and Arab developments. The discussions centered on the Arab-Israeli dispute and pertinent events. The Central Command expressed its deep appreciation for the uprising of our Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories. That movement dramatizes our people's rejection of occupation and the policies of bargaining over Arab land and rights. The National Progressive Front condemned the moves and maneuvers being made to abort and contain the uprising, which would pave the way for the scheme to liquidate the Palestinian cause and make Israel's occupation of Arab territory permanent.

As part of the backing of our kinfolk in the occupied territories, and as a way to bolster their uprising and steadfastness, the Central Command of the National Progresive Front decided to have a day of voluntary work, the proceeds of which will go to support the uprising. The Central Command praised President al-Asad's efforts on behalf of Arab solidarity and resistance to the dangers threatening the Arab nation, the Zionist danger above all.

Radio Claims U.S. Uses Veto To Defend 'Crimes'

JN021611 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States has again shirked its responsibility as a superpower, which, together with the other countries that helped draft the UN Charter, should protect world security and peace from any violation of the charter, and defend international resolutions and documents. Instead, it uses its veto to help the Zionist enemy, which is committing the ugliest crimes of racism and terrorism as part of its aggressive and expansionist policy in the Middle East.

By using its veto, Washington refuses to get the enemy to honor the 1949 Geneva Convention concerning the treatment of civilians in wartime. It also encourages Israel to continue its iron fist policy, break bones, arrest thousands of people, and fire bullets and internationally

banned poison gas at unarmed Arab civilians protesting Israel's continued occupation of their land. By using its veto, Washington has run counter to the will of the international community, which wants a UN-sponsored international conference on peace in the Middle East. Such a conference, in the words of the terrorist Shamir, would force Israel to abandon the occupied territories. Moreover, the United States opposes any effort to end the Israeli occupation and refuses to recognize the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people and the existence of a Palestinian problem. That problem was a product of the conflict with the Zionist enemy, which has usurped land, made a nation homeless, and has and continues to replace Palestinians and other Arabs with settlers by implementing a plan for their annihilation.

By using its veto once again, Washington has deviated from the international consensus in the UN Security Council and has frustrated the draft resolution put forward by the nonaligned countries. That draft was based on a report submitted by the UN secretary general 10 days ago. It says that Israel should be compelled to end its terrorist and repressive practices, and highlights the need for an international conference to settle the regional conflict. By using its veto, Washington has turned its hostility toward the Arabs in general and to the uprising in the occupied homeland in particular into a direct confrontation. It has also given the Zionist enemy a free hand to continue its brutal practices and continue its aggressive and expansionist policy in the region. Thus, as America's latest veto proves, the United States follows an Israeli policy in the Middle East, and that those who are counting on an evenhanded American position or a U.S. solution to the conflict are counting on a mirage. When Washington talks about giving hope to the Palestinians, it means additional crimes and the annihilation of additional Arabs until they submit to the Zionsit enemy and its plans to liquidate their cause.

The Zionist enemy has welcomed the American veto, which the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin has described as a U.S. green light to Israel to continue its use of force to quell the uprising in the occupied homeland and challenge the will of the international community and the United Nations. The international community and the United Nations have both emphasized that there must be an international conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, the pleasure felt by the Zionist entity will not quell the sweeping popular uprising in the occupied territories. Nor will all the means of repression and annihilation which the enemy threatens to use change the historical fact that people wrest their rights from occupiers, even when they use stones in their fight for freedom. The fall of the Nazi reich is an eloquent lesson for the Zionist racists, who have surpassed the Nazis in acts of brutality, crime, and terrorism. These were the actions the Nazis committed before their collapse.

New Initiatives Seek To 'Kill' Uprising

JN301614 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the continued popular uprising against the Israeli occupation of Arab territory, there has been a great deal of talk about projects, initiatives, and proposals for a settlement or promotion of the so-called peace process. There has also been a great deal of talk about negotiations and those who should attend them. Projects, initiatives, and plans poured forth both from Israel and its political establishment and from those immediately concerned with or interested in the Middle East crisis, including the United States and the Camp David regime in Cairo.

In contrast to last year, which saw the international community pay lip service to the notion of Palestinian rights and an end to Israel's occupation of Arab land, today, barely a month into 1988, there is a glut of plans and ideas on the market. If one seeks to explain this torrent of ideas and proposals, one will inevitably conclude that they are related to the uprising itself, to its implications for the relationship between Israel and the people of the occupied territories, the general political situation in Israel, and the position of the international community and public toward Israel and its struggle with the Arabs. Clearly, those who sponsored the proposals would not have moved without the uprising. Another point, no less striking, is the fact that all these proposals and so-called initiatives seek, first and foremost, to kill the uprising, soothe the people of the occupied territories, and give the Israeli occupiers some breathing space. That, in turn, will allow them to deal with the new situation in an atmosphere favorable to them and unfavorable to the masses.

The popular uprising has turned a good many concepts upside down, laid the foundations for new ideas and methods, and opened up new vistas in the decisive pan-Arab conflict between the Zionist invaders and the Arab nation. Many forces, both here in the region and overseas, have settled into the position that no power can possibly dislodge Israel from a single inch of territory. Apart from the United States, no power on earth can sway Israel. With its ample stocks of the latest American arms, Israel's military might is the permanent guarantor of security, order, and calm in the occupied territories. Many of these forces have found themselves in a completely new situation. The Palestinian revolution is no longer a handful of suicide squads doing occasional battle with the Israelis in the front lines. Nor is it simply an organization, factions, offices, newspapers, comments, and statements. The Palestinian revolution has become one of an entire people inside the occupied territories. It is now an all-embracing confrontation, pitting the masses, who have shown considerable ingenuity in their choice of methods, against the occupying enemy, who thought that the fear of force, violence,

arbitrary measures, and oppression could impose the silence of the tomb on the territories, pending negotiations with defeatists on their annexation to Israel.

This new situation has foiled many of the plans prepared for Palestine and the region, and has stolen the thunder of those who are all too eager to sit at the conference table with the occupiers. In addition, these new conditions have made it impossible for the sponsors of concessions and faits accomplis to go public with their calls, or to find anyone to accompany them down the slippery road of concessions to the occupiers and their protectors, the rulers of the United States. Regardless of how many authors there may be of initiatives to abort the uprising and turn back the clock to the days of Camp David and surrender to Israel and the United States, from now on it will be impossible to keep the people of the occupied territories from launching successive uprisings, continuing the revolution, and dictating their will—the will of the broad Arab masses, the will of liberation and self-determination.

Habib Tour, 'New U.S. Scenario' Assessed

JN010809 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 1 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[text] Under the headline "The Substance of the Washington Formula," TISHRIN says: With the arrival of Philip Habib, as Reagan's envoy to the region, it has become clear that the Egyptian president's visit to the United States and Europe took place within the framework of a new U.S. scenario to push the region toward a new concession. The Egyptian president went to the United States carrying, as he announced, a five-point proposal. The proposal's priority is to end the violence in the West Bank and Gaza. This means Mubarak began with Israel's priorities to abort the popular uprising, which has become a source of unbearable concern to Israel and the United States. The practical result of Mubarak's visit was that the United States immediately responded to the first point in his five-point proposal and decided to send Philip Habib, a man who has a record in the region.

TISHRIN says: The conclusion that can be reached regarding what is taking place in the region and around it is that the substance adopted by Washington is a self-rule that would end the formal formulas of the Camp David Accords and entrench their basic results. Egyptian officials were concerned about reassuring Israel that the conference, on which the Egyptian president insists, is a conference that will give negotiators an international cover without interfering in what occurs inside the conference.

TISHRIN concludes: Washington wants to cancel the peaceful UN efforts and undermine the link between the UN secretary general's report and the popular uprising because it has explained the nature of the legitimate national Palestinian rights which are being tampered with. The legitimate rights mean Israel's withdrawal and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Washington must understand this clearly.

'Official' Reaction to Iraqi Media Campaign

JN030853 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0715 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Statement by an official Syrian source; date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] At a time when our Arab uprising in the occupied homeland is escalating against the Zionist enemy; at a time when the Palestine question is restoring its natural position in the forefront of Arab and international concerns; and at a time when the popular and official Arab effort has begun to be concentrated on backing and supporting the Palestinian Arab people in the face of the Israeli occupationist authorities to enable the Palestinians to continue their struggle until liberation; at this particular time, Iraqi officials have embarked on a frenzied media campaign against Syria. Their aims can only be interpreted as an attempt to divert Arab and international attention from the popular uprising in the occupied territories and return the Arabian Gulf region to an atmosphere of tension and confrontation.

Their suspect media campaign against Syria has been continuing and escalating for days and weeks. Syria has not replied to it or exposed its real aims and motives out of a desire of both Syria and the sisterly Arab states not to be dragged into side battles, particularly at this stage when our Arab nation hopes to rectify the Arab situation and provide the best conditions to confront the dangers surrounding it, particularly the Zionist danger.

1. Iraqi officials claim that Syria's efforts to calm the situation in the Gulf region, ease tension there, and avoid an expansion of the war, conflict with the Amman summit resolutions. We ask: Did the Amman summit really call for increasing tension in the Gulf region? Did it call for expanding and escalating the war? Is it in the interests of the sisterly Arab states in the Gulf in particular, and the Arab states in general, to be embroiled in a war which the Iraqi regime launched without consulting any of them, and implicated the fraternal Iraqi people in it, and isolated them from their nation's fateful issues? Has Syria not recorded, as all know, that it rejects attempts to involve the Gulf Arab states in this war? Syria also stressed in Amman, within Iraqi officials' hearing, that implicating the Gulf Arab states in the war serves neither the Arab states, nor the Iraqi people.

2. Iraqi officials are talking a great deal about implementing the Collective Arab Defense Pact in their war with Iran. They try to raise this subject in almost every Arab conference, ignoring the fact that this pact stipulates, in letter and spirit, that when an Arab state enters

a war it should quickly contact and discuss the matter with the other Arab states so that a joint opinion can be reached on the beginning and progress of the war and the way to end it.

In the current state of affairs the Iraqi authorities decided to launch the war by themselves and continues to deal with the war in accordance with their ideas and decisions. They want the other Arab countries to wage the war, in one way or another, without participating in any decisions either at the start or the end. What is more surprising is that the Iraqi regime was not satisfied with the adoption of a unilateral decision on the war. It has also rejected any Arab efforts to end the war after it penetrated militarily into Iran and began to give itself and the war historical names and battles which constitute an insult to the glorious Arab history and imply a deficient understanding of the mission of Islam which the Arabs proudly carried to the world nations.

Now that several years have passed since this war began, the Iraqi regime is still persistently trying to drag the Arab states into this war in order to turn it into an Arab-Persian war that will destroy everything and achieve what the colonialists failed to achieve throughout centuries.

In the meantime, this regime refuses to let the Arabs use any method other than that of war. It is also attempting to impose a rejected trusteeship on the Arab states, particularly on some of these states, so that they will do only what it wants them to do, and act only as it wants them to act.

If we are wrong in this conclusion, how can we explain the strong feelings of displeasure expressed by the Iraqi officials these days against Syria and its role and against the Gulf Arab states and their decision to hold a dialogue with Iran?

3. In successive statements Iraqi officials have claimed that Syria's maintaining good relations with Iran constitutes a disavowal of the stands it expressed at the Amman summit. We ask: Has any Arab delegation which participated in the Amman summit ever heard or felt that Syria is no longer concerned about its relations with Iran? Do the Arab states believe that relations between Syria and Iran should be disrupted? Can this be in the interests of Arabs?

Moreover, before the Amman summit resolutions were officially announced, did an official Syrian source not say that Syria rejects any harm against or denunciation of Iran? Have the Arab brothers not continuously heard from Syrian officials before, during, and after the Amman summit that if the Iraqi officials' objective is to disrupt Syria's relations and to drag the Arab states into a conflict with Iran, then this is rejected because it does not serve the Arab nation's interests or the Arab summit's objective of stopping the war and acheiving peace between Iraq and Iran?

4. The strangest thing in the Iraqi media campaign, which can no longer deceive anyone, is that it considers Syria's stand, which has rejected the war and its expansion from the very beginning, as an element that has disrupted pan-Arab security. Is it not the Iraqi regime which disrupted pan-Arab security when it involved the Iraqi Army in a battle which is not its battle and in a conflict which contradicts the Arab nation's major conflict with the Zionist enemy?

How can we consider Syria's efforts and those of some of its brothers to stop the war from the very beginning as efforts to disrupt pan-Arab security? How can we consider Syria's efforts and those of its brothers in the Gulf to prevent the spread of the war as a conspiracy and a violation of pan-Arab security? Who is stabbing pan-Arab security? Is it the one seeking to stop the war and end its dangers and catastrophes, or the one seeking to expand it and involve all sides in its fire?

Who is threatening pan-Arab security? Is it the one seeking to stop attacks on brothers' ships, calm the atmosphere, and remove the pretexts which led to the mobilization of foreign military fleets in the Gulf waters, or the one which is pleased by the burning of fraternal states' ships and annoyed by the departure of foreign fleets?

5. Syria emphasized all these stands and principles at the Amman summit and has not gone back on them. Syria also stressed that Arab issues should be treated collectively and not unilaterally. Based on these stands and principles, Syria has stressed its full commitment to the security of its brothers in the Gulf. It will not go back on this commitment regardless of how annoyed Iraqi officials are or how weak their assessment and evaluation of Syria and the fraternal states is.

Syria, while explaining these facts, emphasizes that it is careful not to be dragged into marginal battles and media vituperations, thus proceeding from the positive spirit which permeated the Amman summit. This is particularly true at a time when the Arab states are looking forward to a better Arab atmosphere to back and support our people's uprising in the occupied territories and mobilize the nation's energies and capabilities in confronting the Zionist danger so that the Palestine question will continue to be in the forefront of Arab and international concerns.

Afghanistan

Cordovez Makes Statement, Leaves for Islamabad

LD021622 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] His Excellency Diego Cordovez, assistant to the UN secretary general and envoy extraordinary, left for Islamabad this morning. He was in Kabul for consultations and talks with the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan to prepare for the forthcoming round of talks in Geneva concerning a solution to the situation in Afghanistan.

He was seen off at Kabul international airport by Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy minister of foreign affairs, the head of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and by S.K. Bamarjee, head of the UN Development Program in Kabul.

Speaking to reporters prior to his departure, the assistant UN secretary general stated that in the course of his recent visit to Kabul he had met with esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and held two rounds of talks with Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil.

He added: During the meeting his excellency the president of Afghanistan, as well as the Afghan minister of foreign affairs, emphasized Afghanistan's readiness to take an active part with flexibility in the coming round of the Geneva talks.

He concluded that the people of Afghanistan see him as an ambassador of peace. This opinion encourages me, he said, in advancing my mission to restore peace in this country with great patience and love. I will spare no effort to accomplish this mission.

Wakil Departs for Kuwait, Libya, Syria, Jordan

LD021641 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil and his accompanying delegation left this afternoon for the Islamic countries of Kuwait, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Kingdom of Jordan for friendly visits.

In the course of these visits, the foreign minister of the Republic of Afghanistan will meet with high-ranking authorities of these countries to discuss current international issues and topics of mutual interest. He will also inform them about the great advances in the social and political arenas of the country, particularly with regard to the policy of national reconciliation and its values.

The delegation was seen off at Kabul international airport by Sulayman La'eq, minister of tribal affairs; the deputy ministers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the head of protocol; I. Khosla, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the Republic of India; and the charge d'affaires of the People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Eshaq Receives Soviet Gas Industry Delegation

LD012343 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] In his office today, Eshaq Kawa, minister of mines and industries, received a high-ranking delegation of the USSR Gas Industry Ministry led by Minister Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin.

BIA reports that the delegation was informed about the activities and work of the Mines and Industries Ministry. They talked about the expansion of Soviet technical and scientific cooperation with the Republic of Afghanistan in the field of industry, and the Soviet side promised all types of cooperation in this respect.

According to another report, the visiting delegation arrived in Kabul today. The delegation was greeted at Kabul international airport by Muhammad Eshaq Kawa, mines and industries minister of the Republic of Afghanistan; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, the USSR ambassador and extraordinary representative in Kabul; and officials from the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Mining, Natural Gas Protocol

LD022252 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] In his office this afternoon, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, USSR minister for gas industry.

During this meeting they discussed the possibility of exploring and exploiting natural gas with the cooperation of the Soviet Union. The meeting was attended by Minister of Mines and Industries Muhammad Eshaq Kawa; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR Ambassador in Kabul; and Aleksandr Petrov, USSR economic counsellor in Kabul.

Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, prime minister of Afghanistan, today met with Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin, the USSR minister of gas industry, who had recently arrived in Afghanistan at the head of a delegation on an official and friendly visit.

The meeting took place at the headquarters of the Republic of Afghanistan's Council of Ministers. The meeting was attended by: Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; Mahbullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Muhammad Eshaq Kawa, minister of mines and industries; Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction affairs; Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador

to the Republic of Afghanistan; (Yuriy Segovich Chobarov) USSR minister plenipotentiary in Kabul; Aleksander Petrov, economic counsellor of the USSR Embassy; and other members of the visiting delegation.

During this meeting, which took place in a friendly atmosphere, they talked about economic and technical cooperation between Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Industries and the USSR Ministry of Gas Industry.

According to another report, this afternoon Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand attended the signing ceremony of a cooperation protocol between Afghanistan's Ministry of Mines and Industries and the USSR Ministry of Gas Industry. The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Republic of Afghanistan's Council of Ministers. The protocol was signed for Afghanistan by Muhammad Eshaq Kawa, minister of mines and industries; and for the Soviet Union by Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin.

The signing ceremony was attended on the Afghan side by: Deputy Prime Ministers Dr Hasan Sharq, 'Abdul Hamid Hohtat, and Muhammad 'Aziz; Mahbullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee; and other ministers and senior state officials. On the Soviet side the ceremony was attended by: Pavel Petrovich Mozhayev, USSR ambassador in Kabul; (Yuriy Segovich Chobarov), minister plenipotentiary at the USSR Embassy in Kabul; (Gedleman), assistant economic counsellor in Kabul; and other members of the visiting delegation.

According to BIA, the visiting delegation attended a dinner organized in their honor by the Council of Ministers.

Construction Protocol Signed With USSR

LD312340 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] A protocol on technical-scientific cooperation between the [name indistinct] institute of the Soviet Union and the Ministry of Construction Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan was signed in Kabul today. Under the protocol, the [name indistinct] institute of the Soviet Union will render technical cooperation in an effort to advance the expertise of Afghan specialists through a period of training in the Soviet Union.

The protocol was signed by Nazar Muhammad, minister of construction affairs, and for the Soviet side by O.V. Bortnev, deputy chairman of the Soviet State Construction Committee and the head of a delegation visiting from that country. The deputy head of the Afghan State Planning Committee and the economic consellor of the Soviet Embassy in Afghanistan, A. Petrov, were also present at the signing.

Najibullah Addresses Kabul Youth Meeting

LD312333 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, met today with activists from the primary party organizations of the city and province of Kabul in the conference hall of the Esteqlal High School.

He specified the duties of the youth in implementing the goal of national reconciliation in order to maintain peace in the country.

Esteemed Najibullah delivered a detailed and comprehensive speech in which he talked about the achievements and future aims of national reconciliation, implementing the decisions of the recent PDPA Central Committe plenum on national reconciliation, and the undelayable tasks of the party under the conditions of national reconciliation and the Constitution.

During a critical review of DYOA activities, he explained the tasks and duties of youth in the process of implementing the national reconciliation policy.

BAKHTAR reports that esteemed Najibullah's speech was met with applause and shouts of revolutionary slogans. With jubilation and enthusiasm, the participants once again pledged support for the national reconciliation policy.

Then the representatives of Afsoter, a transport company, the Desant assault unit, the village of Chehel Tan in Chahar Asiab, Sultana Razia High School, and the Politechnical Institute of Kabul gave speeches supporting the national reconciliation policy. They vowed to fulfill all the demands made in the guiding speech delivered by esteemed Najibullah and the aims of the national reconciliation policy for the purpose of consolidating and expanding peace and security and halting bloodshed in the country. They pledged not to spare any effort to defend and guard state sovereignty and the achievements of the April Revolution in all social, political, and economic aspects. They gave assurances that the country's youth, realizing the humanistic aims of national reconciliation, would intensify their constructive struggle and apply all their strength to implementing the national reconciliation policy. They said that they had seen over the past year that the people of our country want national reconciliation and the immediate restoration of peace and security in the country.

The youths pledged to rally all their power behind this sacred national cause, which is embodied in national reconciliation, and not to allow the people of Afghanistan to suffer any more from war and bloodshed.

A resolution of the youth of the city and province of Kabul was later read and approved. The resolution says that the youth of Afghanistan are filled with profound

enthusiam for implementing the national reconciliation policy, which has been put forward by the PDPA, and note that our country is advancing toward peace and an end to fratricide. We activists of the city and province of Kabul will carry out the duties which are entrusted to us by esteemed Najibullah. We promise to continuously consolidate and broaden our ranks. We will devote all our efforts, including the sacrifice of our lives, in order to implement the policy of national reconciliation.

BAKHTAR reports that a copy of the DYOA appeal, which was addressed to the residents of Kabul and the brothers who live far from the country and which was signed by 200,000 members of the Kabul City DYOA, was presented to esteemed Najibullah by Farid Ahmad Mozdak, first secretary of the DYOA. This appeal has been sent on the occasion of the first anniversary of the national reconciliation policy.

During this part of the meeting, Farid Ahmad Mozdak gave a short speech thanking esteemed Najibullah for his guiding speech and describing the participation of the youth and members of the DYOA in implementing the national reconciliation policy. On behalf of all the organization's members, he expressed readiness to participate in implementing the national reconciliation policy.

Bangladesh

Minister Denies Harboring Tripura 'Guerrillas'

BK300206 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Bangladesh has categorically denied the Indian allegation that it has been harboring Tripura National Volunteer [TNV] guerrillas. The denial was made by Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury while commenting on a reported statement made by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Tripura that Bangladesh has failed to take action against the TNV guerrillas operating from its territory.

Mr Chowdhury said we do not train or harbor any guerrillas in Bangladesh nor do we export guerrillas or terrorism to other countries. The foreign minister said Bangladesh is always ready to cooperate with the Government of India in eliminating guerrilla activities in each other's country and also to combat terrorism in all its forms. He said we have already assured the Government of India at the highest level of our sincere cooperation in this respect.

Sheikh Hasina Comments on Opposition Unity

BK030227 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Awami League chief and leader of the opposition eight-party alliance, Sheikh Hasina, has said the country's two opposition alliances of eight and seven parties are united on the issue of the resignation of present government. She, however, said there is no guarantee that the government will fall if the two alliances come to one platform to conduct their movement. Sheikh Hasina was talking to the editors of national dailies, news agencies, and weeklies in Dhaka yesterday. She said: While one of the alliances believed in the present system of government, Awami League believed in parliamentary system and multiparty democracy.

Assails Ershad's BBC Comments

BK030901 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali
28 Jan 88 pp 1, 12

[Excerpt] Sheikh Hasina, president of the Bangladesh Awami League and the leader of the eight-party alliance, said in a statement on Wednesday that President Ershad and his government are responsible for firing on a procession in Chittagong and the subsequent deaths. She stated: "President Ershad tried to avoid responsibility for the deaths of these people when, during a BBC interview yesterday morning, he made the comment in connection with the Chittagong murders that 'such things happen in developing countries.' However, under no circumstances can this government escape murder charges."

Sheikh Hasina asserted: "From this brutal genocide, the bloody nature of the government has once again been exposed to the nation and to the people, as well as to peaceloving people throughout the world."

Describing the firing on the Chittagong procession as the last attempt to remain in power, she said: "Just as the Pakistani aggressor forces killed the best sons of the nation in 1971 by following a scorched earth policy prior to their defeat, so also this government is brazenly killing the brave sons of the soil."

Charging President Ershad with pursuing a destructive economic policy, Sheikh Hasina said that by giving an "account of production" to the BBC, President Ershad had made an unsuccessful attempt at self-justification. It is now crystal clear to the people of Bangladesh that the country's economy depends on foreign aid. The economy is now fully mortgaged to foreign loans. A class of rich plunderers now exists who invest billions of taka of foreign aid in unproductive fields. This government has institutionalized smuggling, black marketeering, corruption, theft of relief goods, nepotism, misappropriation of state property, and so forth.

Sheikh Hasina expressed her desire for greater unity among the patriotic, democratic, and progressive forces to force President Ershad to resign, thus averting a devastating national crisis. She also bitterly criticized the imposition of restrictions on the press.

Sheikh Hasina called upon the people to change the current people's movement into a mass uprising. [passage omitted]

India

Polling Ends Peacefully in Meghalaya, Tripura

BK021338 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Polling in Tripura and Meghalaya ended peacefully this evening. In Meghalaya, nearly 65 percent voters exercised their franchise. Heavy polling was reported in the prestigious Tura Assembly constituency where the union labor minister, Mr P.S. Sangma, is locked in a triangular contest. Nearly 75 percent cast their votes in Bhaghmara constituency where the chief minister, Captain W.S. Sangma, is contesting. Polling continued beyond schedule in many booths in Shillong. Polling could not be held in Langpi and Hakumari polling centers in Nongstoin constituency in the West Khasi Hills District as the polling parties were not allowed to reach the polling booths by the Assam police. These areas on the border with Assam are reported to be under prohibitory orders imposed by the district administration.

In Tripura, polling was heavy in rural areas. In some subdivisions like Kailashar and Kamalpur, the percentage of votes polled by 1500 was 90 to 92 percent. However, in some of the polling booths people were seen standing in queues to cast their votes even after the expiry of the scheduled time. Polling was peaceful in all these areas when reports last came in. According to state chief secretary Mr (N.P. Muwani), TNV [Tripura National Volunteers] extremists fired at polling parties in three different places, but that did not affect voting.

West Bengal Rally Demands Mid-Term Elections

BK311602 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] A massive human chain was formed in West Bengal today demanding among other things mid-term elections and protesting against the general price rise. More than 50 lakh people are reported to have taken part in it. The chain converged on Calcutta from various points. The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, and the Left Front chairman, Mr Saroj Mukherji, were among those who took part.

Soviet Team Discusses Civil Aviation Cooperation

BK011630 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The visiting Soviet minister for civil aviation, Mr A.S. Systsov [title as heard], held discussion with the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, on India-Soviet cooperation in aviation industry in New Delhi. Later, the joint India-Soviet group on aviation concluded a protocol incorporating mutually agreed decisions for cooperation in the aviation industry. The Soviet delegation was led by Mr A.S. Systsov and the Indian side by the minister of state for defense production, Mr Shivraj Patil. The six-member high-level delegation also visited HAL [Hindustan Aeronautics Limited] at Nasik, Koraput, Hyderabad and reviewed the progress of the licensed production of different MIG series of aircraft.

Earlier, Mr Systsov called on the minister for civil aviation and tourism, Mr Jagdish Tytler. They exchanged views on purchase of Soviet aircraft and aviation equipment by India.

Coast Guard To Receive Six Additional Ships

BK311557 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] Coast Guard is to be strengthened with six more vessels fitted with modern gadgets. One vessel will be commissioned next month. This was disclosed to newsmen by the director general of the Coast Guard, Vice Admiral H. Johnson, aboard the ship "Vikram" off the Madras port. He said Coast Guard will also set up its second air station at Tanjavur in Tamil Nadu for providing effective surveillance support to its vessels. The first one is at Daman on the west coast. In reply to a question, Vice Admiral Johnson said Coast Guard is assisting the peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka and is patrolling the seas off the Jaffna Peninsula.

The AIR correspondent, Ratan Salve, who witnessed the display of the Coast Guard might on the high seas, reports that the young force created just 11 years ago is fairly capable of protecting the country's exclusive economic zone. The last year alone the Coast Guard apprehended 38 foreign trawlers venturing into India's economic zone and seized smuggled goods worth crores of rupees.

U.S. Attitude Toward South Asia 'Partisan'

BK291221 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English
18 Jan 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Only Partisan"]

[Text] President Reagan's certificate to U.S. Congress that Pakistan does not possess nuclear weapons and, therefore, qualifies for American military and economic aid is a kind of callous disregard of India's susceptibilities to which this nation is getting used. The American tilt towards Pakistan was not a desperate, one-time decision during Richard Nixon's presidency: it preceded the Bangladesh crisis and has remained in high profile since. It is, of course, entirely Washington's business to build whatever kind of relationship it wishes to with Islamabad. Such international ties are forged and strengthened on the basis of shared perceptions and trade-offs. When Pakistan has concurred to fight the U.S. proxy war against the Soviets in Afghanistan, or to act the policeman in the Persian Gulf, it qualifies for special American care and India should not be green with jealousy.

Few in India have indeed been surprised at the consistent American bias in favour of Pakistan, whatever the declared ground for its justification. When U.S. aid to Pakistan was temporarily suspended last October, some minds unfamiliar with Washington's ways were ecstatic at the intervention of King Solomon. Subsequent manoeuvres to equate India with Pakistan in nuclear matters and to circument U.S. laws to resume aid to Pakistan made it clear once again that U.S. commitment to Islamabad stands on its own ground independent of India. That is why the US's own intelligence reports casting doubts on Pakistan's nuclear intention; the Parvez affair which seemingly did not mystify the State Department; and the latest West German probe into suspected shipment of weapons-grade material to Pakistan make no difference to Washington's attitude towards its ally in South Asia.

India apparently had begun to adjust itself to America's South Asia policy, under which Pakistan remains a front-line State, with or without the Afghan issue. But serious doubts will now arise about the likelihood, or even desirability, of such adjustments. If the response of the U.S. Administration to India's acquisition of a Soviet-made nuclear-powered submarine is a pointer, Washington has made up its mind to deny India any military edge over Pakistan. The submarine is nuclear-powered, and it does not carry nuclear missiles. If the U.S. objection is to nuclear proliferation through the transfer of the submarine to India, a non-signatory to the NPT, it should have registered its protest with Moscow. But by declaring that Pakistan may have to be given advanced weaponry for matching India's new capability, Washington is stretching its partisan bias a little too far. It is amazing that the U.S. should be grumbling about raising the sophistication level of the Indian Navy. It had ignored India' protests when it gifted to Islamabad the F-16 aircraft, raising the level of combat aircraft in South Asia, or when it agreed to supply to Pakistan airborne early warning and control system. Washington's unconcealed desire to pin India down to military parity with Pakistan introduces a brazenness to U.S. policy for the region of which India must take note.

Iran

Further on Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interview

NC031045 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the Majlis speaker and the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council, by an unidentified correspondent from Japan's NHK Television on 1 February; place not given—recorded, with Japanese correspondent's questions in English followed by Persian translation]

[Text] [Correspondent] My first question is about the prospects of war and peace. The Iraqi regime insists that it will never accept any change in UN Resolution 598. Iran has also maintained its position. Can we expect or is there any possibility for a political solution to end the Iran-Iraq war in the near future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course I cannot speak for Iraq. As far as we are concerned, we have stated what is just. We have said the aggressor should be punished and justice enforced. We think that if the Security Council and others who want to play an effective role are prepared to enforce justice, then there is a way to end the war. We have specifically stated that the clause concerning the recognition of the aggressor should be implemented first and that the other clauses be implemented afterward.

[Correspondent] Do you intend to change your position or be more flexible in accepting UN Resolution 598?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We believe we have made a correct move; I cannot be content with anything less.

[Correspondent] With regard to Japan, what do you expect its role to be toward a cease-fire or toward ending the war?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Any country that wants to serve justice and right, including your country, can state that Iraq started the war. This is precisely what Britain did 2 days ago when the British Foreign Ministry officially reported to the British Parliament that Iraq began the war, the attack on cargo ships, the attack on civilian cities, and the use of chemical weapons. If your country also acknowledges these facts (?at) the United Nations and the Security Council, it will help toward ending the war.

[Correspondent] What will Iran do if the UN approves another resolution that condemns Iran and urges an arms embargo against it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This will not really affect our position. It will only increase our suspicion of the UN and the Security Council and will further prove their partiality. It will also show that they back the aggressor instead of defending the right. Why would Britain, whose Parliament and Foreign Ministry admit that the culprit is Iraq, want to join in an arms embargo against the oppressed?

[Correspondent] You have mobilized a large number of soldiers and Basij volunteers in the country. Do you intend to carry out a big offensive in the near future similar to the "Karbala'-5" offensive? If so, do you think that there will be an attack on Basra?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course we cannot reveal the target of our attack. However, this time the number of forces we have mobilized is so great that we will be able to carry out an attack on any target we choose. If there is a need for such an attack, then of course we will launch

one. However, we would prefer the Security Council to do its duty and identify the aggressor so that there will be no need for a full-scale attack.

[Correspondent] My next question relates to the GCC countries. Has the GCC made any proposals on ending the Iran-Iraq war and on regional security? Also, in this connection, what is Syria's role?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] No specific proposal has been received yet. We are to have a meeting at the deputy minister level in the future. Syria's role has been effective, as have those of the UAE and Oman.

[Correspondent] As far as Iranian-Soviet relations are concerned, and in view of the fact that your excellency has accepted an invitation to visit the Soviet Union, I would like to ask when this visit will take place and whether you plan to discuss a defense treaty with the Soviet Union during your coming visit.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The date of my visit has not yet been set. Of course, if the Soviet forces withdraw from Afghanistan, then we will have almost no problems with the Soviet Union, and in that case the situation between us and the Soviet Union is wide open. Regarding a defense pact, we have never talked about this issue.

[Correspondent] So, Your Excellency, this means that you will visit the Soviet Union if the Afghanistan problem is solved?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] My visit will not depend on that condition. I said that if this problem is solved, then there will be no problems between us and the Soviet Union.

[Correspondent] During your meeting yesterday with the Soviet ambassador in Tehran, Your Excellency told the Soviet ambassador that if the Soviet Union is determined to withdraw from Afghanistan, then Iran is prepared to help the Soviet Union. What does this mean? Do you have any specific plan or program to help the Soviet Union?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are not attending the Geneva conference now because the mujahidin—the true Afghan organization—is not present there and we do not recognize the Kabul regime as legitimate. If the Russians want to pull out, we can help to facilitate their withdrawal. The Russians fear that after their withdrawal, the Americans or others will infiltrate there. We have told them that if they pull out, we will help establish Afghanistan's independence and will prevent U.S. infiltration.

[Correspondent] What faction or group do you want to win the U.S. presidential elections this year so that relations between Iran and the United States can be normalized?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It makes no difference to us. We believe that whoever the American nation wants will win.

[Correspondent] My next question is about the Iranian leadership. Have you had a chance recently to meet with the imam?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We are received by him whenever there is something to be discussed with him. There is no difficulty about our being received by him.

[Correspondent] We sometimes hear rumors that the imam's state of health is not so good. Is his health good right now?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You have seen how these rumors have always turned out to be wrong. There is no need for explanation. Thank God, his health is completely satisfactory.

[Correspondent] Early in January this year, Imam Khomeyni criticized President Khamene'i in a letter. Are there any disagreements, disharmony, or power struggles within the Islamic Government of Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This issue was clarified. It was a scientific and religious debate. The imam is extremely fond of Mr Khamene'i and considers him to be one of the effective figures of the revolution. This issue was not related to a power struggle in any way. It was a scientific and social discussion, which is an ordinary matter for us.

[Correspondent] However, foreigners who heard this feel that according to the imam's decree, the government enjoys ultimate authority to control all the social, political, and other aspects of Iranian life. Is this the situation?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I stated in my Friday prayers sermon that foreign observers do not understand what is happening here. The issue was not that [how the foreigners assessed it]. The issue was as follows: Our system is Islamic and its laws should be within the framework of Islamic injunctions. Sometimes, however, present interests call for one of the Islamic injunctions to be temporarily postponed. The discussion was on whether Islamic rule has this right or not. The imam stated that yes, it does, and that a ruler can—in the interests of society—alter some of the injunctions, the peripheral injunctions of Islam. This is something that also happened in the past and it does not mean that absolute authority is given to the government or any other institution. For example, take the question of private property as accepted by Islam. Let us assume that a mine is situated on the property of an individual and that the government wants to exploit that mine and to use that property against the owner's wishes. This violates one of Islam's injunctions on this person's ownership rights. The imam has said that the government has the right to exploit that mine even if the owner of the property disagrees.

[Correspondent] My question is about the future. Do you have any plans to be a candidate for the presidency?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I cannot make predictions about this matter now. When the time comes, I will make my decision.

[Correspondent] On the recent uprising of the Palestinian people, do you intend to extend financial and strategic support to the Palestinians? I mean, do you intend to give them military support?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course we want to give the Palestinians any support we can. Military help is not the issue for the time being. The uprising has not reached that level yet. However, if the need arises one day, then we will certainly provide that kind of support.

[Correspondent] On the Iran-Iraq war, do you expect any developments in the UN Security Council's activities in the future?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I do not have any specific information on this. However, if the secretary general's views are taken into consideration, then I think that he can take an effective step toward resolving this problem.

[Correspondent] If the United Nations names Iraq as the aggressor—the initiator of the war—will you launch a big offensive against Iraq?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In that case I do not think that there would be any need for this, because on the basis of this view, there must naturally be a trial for the aggressor. Our rights will then be met and the aggressor will be punished. Therefore, we will not have to carry out an attack.

[Correspondent] I already know what Iran's position is with regard to the United States. My question is: Do you intend to take any measures toward the normalization of relations between Iran and the United States?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We have repeatedly stated that this process should be initiated by the United States. It is they who have shown hostility, both before and after the revolution. They must prove they do not have any specific hostile designs on us. We have said that, as a sign of good will, their first step should be to release our frozen assets there. We would consider this as a sign of good will. Other steps can then be taken.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much.

Foreign Ministry Urges Muslims To Foil Plots

LD021728 Tehran IRNA in English 1709 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—The U.S. veto of the latest Security Council resolution against the Zionist regime is similar to other measures taken by Washington to support the illegal Zionist entity and encourage it to continue its inhuman crimes in occupied Palestine, said the Iranian Foreign Ministry here today.

The Foreign Ministry in a statement said such U.S. measures in addition to revealing the deep rooted hostility of Washington towards Islam and Arabs should have made clear to those Muslim states who have tied their interests to that of the U.S., that Washington will never abandon its support for the criminal Zionist regime.

"The U.S. will eventually sacrifice these Muslim countries on the altar of Zionist interests," the statement warned.

It said although the Security Council resolution lacked the teeth to seriously prevent the Zionist's crime, but the U.S. concern for the Zionist entity is so great it even vetoed the mild-toned resolution. [sentence as received]

The statement cautioned Palestinians that their cause will not be realised unless they intensify the uprising in occupied Palestine and weed out the Zionist regime with decisive and unsparing support of all Muslim peoples.

The Foreign Ministry calling on all Muslim countries to fulfil their responsibilities toward the Palestine cause urged them to deploy all their financial and spiritual possibilities to foil the joint U.S.-Zionist plots. Do not allow the Zionist usurpers to continue their barbaric crimes against Palestinian Muslims, it appealed to them.

Khamene'i Interviewed on Defense Innovations

LD021243 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Interview with President 'Ali Khamene'i by unidentified correspondent on 2 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Khamene'i, you inspected the exhibition of military researchers' innovations in the defense industries. Could you please give us your views on this inspection?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Yes, today I visited both the exhibition and also the departments where the research is carried out. The fruits of the research were offered for viewing. In some research offices, equipment is manufactured. If I summarize it in one sentence, I must say that the work carried out here gives us a great deal of hope and the future seems bright. The work is of great volume and of

very high quality. A large number of researchers and committed Hezbollahi managers and scholars are working here. On the basis of our requirements today, they are preparing plans for research and manufacturing.

It appears that the research work in this department is more advanced than research work in other departments of the country. That is, the defense department is ahead of other departments in research work. Fortunately, as I felt, all the brothers are motivated and happy to continue this work. Some natural division of work has taken place between the brothers in the industries' organization and the brothers working in such other defense departments as the Guards Corps and Construction Jihad. Some work is also carried out in parallel in some instances, and that, I believe, would not matter. They are all forging ahead.

If I were to make a proper interpretation, I must say that they are all competing for progress. This is great and I hope that these gentlemen are successful. I wish success for our dear brother Engineer Sobhan, who is working very hard and has made an achievement in this department. The state authorities shoud also value research and they should give top priority to research works. All the responsible officials of the state departments, particularly the budget department, the department responsible for allocating foreign currency, and other decision-making centers should note that research work should really be given top priority.

[Correspondent] Today is the 2d day of the 10 Days of Dawn, named the Day of Islamic Revolution and the Holy Defense. Your Excellency, during a comprehensive speech last night you said that if we win this war, it will be the first time that Islam has won against blasphemy. How do you envisage the realization of this objective in view of these innovations and gains?

[Khamene'i] I believe that the realization of this objective is certain. That is, we will not give up until we gain a decisive military victory. The revolution victory itself was a great victory on the front of struggle against global blasphemy and arrogance. However, what makes that victory complete and would deliver the decisive blow on global arrogance and blasphemy, is military victory in the war. This will be realized, God willing. Not only are we hopeful, but we are also certain that with divine succor, this will be done, God willing.

[Correspondent] Thank you.

[Khamene'i] I wish you success.

Views Latest Developments

LD021630 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—President and head of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC) Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i toured various sections of Iran's defence industry organization here today and was acquainted with the latest innovations and achievements of Iranian military researchers.

In a brief speech, President Khamene'i lauded Iranian military reseachers for their great achievements and called for a speedy drive towards self-sufficiency in military industries.

Khamene'i referred to the west's deceptive policy of luring brains from Third World countries and plots of the former regime of Iran to prevent talented youths from developing their ingenuity. He said the Islamic revolution has provided an ideal opportunity for Iranian officials to utilize their spiritual assets in making the country independent of foreign powers.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Iranian military research researchers there are no shortages of military equipment or ammunition on the battlefields of the Iraqi-imposed war, said Khamene'i.

The SDC head, addressing the staff of Iran's defence industries organization said "Your efforts are bearing fruits on the war fronts. The harder your work, the more successful our sacred defence will be."

At the end of his five-hour visit, the president in an interview with IRNA felt confident in Iran's imminent victory over Iraqi Ba'thist troops. He added "We will not abandon our sacred defence until the ultimate victory is realized."

Although the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979 was in itself a great achievement, the Islamic republic's military triumph over Baghdad's Ba'thist regime will complete this achievement. concluded the president.

Musavi Address at 10 Days of Dawn Ceremonies

LD021221 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] The speech by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi at the ceremonies held to commemorate the 10 Days of Dawn and the return of the imam of the ummah is the subject of our next news report, which you can now hear:

During these ceremonies, Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi made a speech listing the special features of the blessed 10 Days of Dawn and their critical role in the continuation of the Islamic Revolution. He said: The great welcome given by our nation to our dear imam on 1 February 1979 demonstrated that they had regained their leader, under whom they could revolt against the bullies and become victorious. Today, the Palestinian people are also responding to the message of Iranian nation. If this revolution continues, we will certainly hear the same response even more loudly from all the Muslim nations of the world.

Mr Musavi continued: Before the Islamic Revolution an open door policy was being implemented in our country, and the policies of the hated Pahlavi regime were based on the obliteration of Islam. Thanks to God, with the

victory of the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of the imam of the ummah, all their plans were foiled and now we are implementing the policy of "Neither East nor West," only the Islamic Republic, despite all international conspiracies which said that such a policy was not possible.

The prime minister added: Today, our holy system has made advances which are unprecedented in the Third World. Due to the blessings of the blood of our illustrious martyrs, in view of the imposed war, the economic embargo, the reduction in the price of oil, and attacks on ships, the government has stood firm and confronted the United States in full force. Today, we have in fact been turned into a force which gives new hope to the people of the world. We support all movements aimed at restoring the glory and the pride of Islamic nations, and we make no compromises regarding the war, the export of the revolution, or our foreign policy.

Referring to the disgraceful defeat of the plan to station foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf, Mr Musavi said: In the past, a single warship could change a regime. Today, however, our brave youths with their small boats are confronting 90 warships of the NATO members and are proving that the slogan "Victory of blood over the sword" is still alive. What has happened in the Persian Gulf is the consequence of the events of 1 February 1979.

In conclusion, referring to the dependence on foreign countries of Iran's industries under the former regime, Mr Musavi said: One of the true blessings of this revolution and of the 10 Days of Dawn is to achieve industrial self-sufficiency, and today we are seeing true independence. One of the sources of our strength, which has enabled us to hold our heads high before the superpowers, is this great endeavor of yours and your unstinting support for the serving government, and your belief that this government is capable of implementing the revolutionary slogans and the divine values. If the voice of the Islamic Republic is now raised throughout the world, it is due to the strength of this nation.

Notes Influence of Islam

LD022051 Tehran IRNA in English 1819 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Qom, Feb. 2, IRNA—Prime Minister Hosyen Musavi here yesterday called on Iranian officials to review the 10 Days of Dawn, marking the 9th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, and to transfer their revolutionary experiences to the oppressed world to facilitate the spread of the Islamic movement worldwide.

The premier in his address to a large group of people in this holy city added that the great importance attached to the Islamic revolution around the world stems from its genuine Islamic values, its enlightened leadership and the massive presence of Iranian people on various scenes.

Before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran (1979) the U.S. and other satanic powers used to plunder the Iranian people's resources in addition to directing their vital affairs. But he added, the victory of the Islamic Revolution changed all that and could be rightly be described as the triumph of Islamic values over the corrupt dictates of arrogant powers.

Premier Musavi said "we do not claim that the rule of Islam has completely prevailed throughout the country but we can boast of cutting off the hands of the U.S. from this country and closing multi-national companies in Iran."

Despite all plots hatched by enemies of the Islamic Republic such as economic sanctions and air raids on shipping in the Persian Gulf, Iranian officials by relying solely on Islam and the Islamic Revolution have successfully overcome all difficulties, Musavi said.

Musavi noted that although 300 foreign magazines financed by various governments are busy printing anti-Islamic Revolution literature in a futile effort to divert the attention of people from the revolution, Iranian Muslims are determined to continue treading their chosen divine path.

Montazeri Agrees To Release Some Prisoners

LD011801 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] The deputy leader agreed to the request of the members of the Amnesty Committee of his holiness the imam to free a number of prisoners on the occasion of the anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution.

According to an IRNA report, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed Mohammad Musavi-Bojnurdi, a member of the Amnesty Committee of his holiness the imam, in a radio, television, and press conference announced the conditions for the prisoners who will be released or whose prison terms will be reduced.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Receives Hungarian Envoy

LD301613 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA—The Islamic Revolution of Iran has had a profound influence on Hungary as an element for expansion of Tehran-Budapest relations, Hungarian Ambassador Zsigmond Kazmer told Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a meeting here today.

In response Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said Eastern European countries are generally friendly to Iran and that the Islamic Republic is trying to balance its foreign policy and establish ties with countries like Hungary which are seeking healthy relations.

The speaker also said that he is looking forward for an opportunity to respond to invitations extended by Hungary and some other Eastern European countries for a visit.

Officials Meet With Indian, FRG Envoys

LD021852 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—Indian Ambassador Ramish Chander Arora expressed his country's readiness to further expand relations with Iran, during a meeting with minister of budget and planning Ma'sud Roghani Zanjani here today.

In reply the Iranian minister said Iran gives priority to its relations with third world countries. He also called for long term economic and technical relations between the Islamic Republic and India.

Meanwhile, West German ambassador to Iran Armin Freitag met with chairman of the Majlis (Parliament) Foreign Relations Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi here on the same day. Discussed in the meeting was Tehran-Bonn mutual cooperation.

Pilgrims To Participate in Training Courses

LD011408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] A statement by the office in charge of instruction and propaganda regarding the hajj and pilgrimage invites all pilgrims to the house of God from Tehran Province who are planning to go on pilgrimage to holy Mecca in the coming year to take part in training courses that will be held in 50 mosques in Tehran which are identified by plaques placed on them, in order to gain greater religious-political information on the pilgrimage. Pilgrims to the holy house of God who wish to receive greater information about the names and addresses of mosques and takaya [places for Koranic recitation or religious instruction] announced in the statement of the office in charge of instruction can get in touch on telephone number 678709.

Malekzadegan Addresses Marines on Sea Patrol

LD011308 Tehran IRNA in English 1256 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 1, IRNA—Navy Commander Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Monday that nearly 20 Iranian gunboats routinely patrol the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman every day.

Speaking to Iranian Marines at a flag hoistening ceremony here, Rear Admiral Malekzadegan added that the committed personnel and experts of the Iranian Navy have made great progress in electronic and missile systems since the victory of the 1979 Islamic revolution.

He said the routine patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman by 20 naval warships simultaneous with the setting up of training courses aboard two warships in the Indian Ocean at this crucial juncture indicates the Navy's combat readiness and its success in attaining self-sufficiency.

Malekzadegan said that such achievements as attained by the Navy disproves the claims of the global arrogance that half of Iran's warships have been put out of operation.

He said notwithstanding the presence of at least 80 foreign warships in the Persian Gulf, the Iranian gunboats will continue to patrol the waterway until "the arrogant powers pull out of the region."

Notes Naval Strength in Gulf

LD021600 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., Feb. 2, IRNA—The Islamic Republic's Navy appears so strong and mighty in its confrontation with the aggressor enemy and global arrogance that even the massive presence of the U.S. and other NATO members in the region has failed to help the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, said the navy commander here Tuesday.

Rear Admiral Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan pointed [out], the U.S. has no alternatives but to withdraw its forces from the Persian Gulf and that all its (U.S.) futile efforts to keep the toterring regime of Iraq have proved disastrous.

The committed personnel of the navy continue to make great strides in attaining self-sufficiency in the fields of training, repair and maintenance and manufacture of vessels, Malekzadegan said.

The navy commander added that 20 of the most sophisticated courses such as marine science and seamanship are being taught at the training centers and naval academies.

In order to provide marine cadets with practical training, a number of them have been despatched aboard 2 warships to the Indian Ocean and other high seas, said the real admiral. During the 8,000-mile voyage, the cadets will become familiar with seamanship problems, concluded Malekzadegan.

Iraqi-Supported Armed Bandits To Be Executed

LD011821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 88

[Excerpt] The Supreme Judicial Council had a session today under the chairmanship of Musavi-Ardabili, the president of the Supreme Court. In this meeting the decree for the execution of armed bandits who had created fear and anxiety on the roads and who received

money from the Iraqi Intelligence Organization was discussed, and the order for the implementation of the sentences were issued. [passage omitted]

New Chemical Decontamination System Detailed

LD031008 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] The second and most modern decontamination and antichemical bomb system, known as Deraksh-6, has been manufactured by the experts of the war support and engineering headquarters of the Esfahan Construction Jihad. One of the designers of this equipment announced this in an interview with the Central News unit. He said: In light of the experience gained during the past few years in the field of manufacturing equipment to neutralize chemical bombs, we have succeeded in preventing injury to fighters subjected to chemical bombings. However, in view of the length of the battlefront and the difficult terrain, particularly in the western fronts, we decided to manufacture more modern equipment with greater application. This equipment was manufactured and made ready for use. Its mass production has already begun.

He said: This equipment includes a 1,000-liter tank [makhzan] and a limiting [mahdud-konandeh] system. It can be filled with surface water. Two drain pipes are installed at the rear of the vehicle which can completely drain the tank in 4 minutes. Another characteristic of this equipment is that it can directly use the engine power and transmission of the vehicle to transfer the contents to the pumps, which can deliver the contents over a greater part of the bombed area.

Norwegian Tanker Attacked Off UAE Coast

LD031107 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] According to REUTERS, shipping sources in the Persian Gulf announced today that speedboats attacked a Norwegian tanker and set it on fire. According to this report, the attack on 33,950-tonne "Petrobulk Ruler" was carried out at dawn today near the port of Al-Shariqah.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,100

LD021829 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants heavily shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites, supply routes and vehicle columns throughout the battlefields Monday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

The 3100th Joint Staff Communique, announcing the above, said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy gun emplacements destroyed in parts of the southern and western sectors in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

An Iraqi patrol convoy attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, sustained several casualties and was forced to flee Monday when brought under Iranian artillery fire.

Iranian combatants shelled Iraqi tank squadrons in Panjwin and Yebis, northwestern and southern sectors, yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers.

Iraqi soldiers sustained heavy casualties and several enemy vehicles were set ablaze when Iranian forces shelled Iraqi vehicle columns throughout the northwestern fronts, Salman Faraj, Salehabad and west of Kushk yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Monday to reconnoiter position of foreign vessels and provide air cover for the navy.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats continued their patrol missions Monday but traced no suspicious cases, concluded the communique.

Operations in Al-'Amarah Region

LD021915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Three officials of the intelligence office of the town of Al-'Amarah in Iraq have been killed by the fighters of the Seyyed al-Shohada army. The Ramadan Headquarters, the center for directing irregular operations of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that the Seyyed ol-Shohada army carried out three ambush operations over the past few days in the Mawat-Al-'Amarah, (Al-Shubayrah)-Al-'Amarah and Jalibah-(Muil) axes, all in the Al-'Amarah region of Iraq, and succeeded in killing three officials of the intelligence office in the town of Al-'Amarah and destroyed one command vehicle belonging to the Ba'thist hirelings.

The report also says that the figiters of the Seyyed al-Shohada army also attacked two Saddamist bases in the (Sahla)-(Muil) axes and killed or wounded five more Iraqi troops. Several light weapons along with their ammunition were captured by the fighters of Islam in these operations.

Pakistan

UN Mediator Continues Talks With Leaders

Meets With Ziaul Haq

BK290338 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jan 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday evening [28 January] and had a detailed discussion with him about the issues to be settled with regard to Afghanistan. Cordovez lauded Pakistan's support in the efforts being made for a peaceful settlement of the Afghanistan situation. Those present on the occasion included Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, the foreign secretary, and Pakistan's permanent representative at the United Nations.

Received by Junejo

BK301116 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, today received the UN envoy on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, in Rawalpindi shortly before Mr Cordovez's departure for Kabul. The discussions related to crucial outstanding issue in respect of the settlement of the Afghanistan problem.

The prime minister emphasized Pakistan's commitment to early finalization of the Geneva process. He expressed the hope that the Afghans would soon reemerge as a free, independent, neutral, and nonaligned nation friendly to all of its neighbors including Pakistan and the Soviet Union.

Mr Cordovez expressed appreciation for Pakistan's constructive cooperation in its efforts to promote a solution acceptable to all the parties.

Departs for Kabul

BK310824 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 31 Jan 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, left Islamabad for Kabul this morning on his second visit to the Afghan capital during his current shuttle to this area. He is on a mission to solve the residual issues in connection with the preparation for the next round of proximity talks at Geneva. Mr Cordovez was due to go to Kabul yesterday, but he was prevented from doing so due to inclement weather in the Afghan capital.

Our representative says the issues mainly relate to the last outstanding problem of withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan and the question of formation of an interim government in Afghanistan.

Returns, Briefs Noorani

BK021615 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Feb 88

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, returned to Islamabad from Kabul today. He briefed Zain Noorani, the minister of state for foreign affairs, about the discussions he had with the Kabul regime leaders. Pakistan will now assess the latest situation in the light of these discussions. Cordovez will continue his talks with the minister of state for foreign affairs and other officials tomorrow.

The outstanding issues which Cordovez is trying to get resolved include the timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the monitoring of the implementation of the proposed Geneva agreement, disengagement of warring factions in Afghanistan, and consultations with Afghan refugees.

Radio Pakistan's correspondent has learned that the comprehensive agreement will also include a clause which will call for a consensus on necessary arrangements for effective implementation of the Geneva agreement.

Wali Khan Criticizes U.S. 'Global Designs'

BK310856 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 24 Jan 88 p 1

[By Rahimullah Yusufzai]

[Excerpt] Peshawar, Jan. 23—The ANP [Awami National Party] President Khan Abdul Wali Khan has alleged that U.S. imperialism, after utter failure in Iran and Afghanistan, was now aiming to turn Pakistan into a springboard for achieving its global designs mindless of the sufferings it was inflicting on the local population.

Addressing a protest meeting at Jinnah Park Peshawar immediately after the Ghaibana Namaz-i-Janaza [funeral prayer in absentia] for those killed in yesterday's bomb blasts in Jalalabad, he claimed the imperialist forces and their local agents had suffered a setback in Afghanistan and the most obvious way to obviate this failure was to incite the locals and Afghan refugees to fight against each other.

Wali Khan pointed out that thousands of people who had accompanied Bacha Khan's [Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan] funeral procession to Jalalabad had seen with their own eyes that the Afghans were living a normal life and were progressing in the wake of the Afghan Revolution. He felt the favourable impact of the journey on the minds of the Pakistanis was intolerable for the U.S imperialists and the rulers in Islamabad and plans were devised to erase such impressions. He contended that bombs were thus exploded in Jalalabad during the funeral rites to portray Afghanistan as a lawless country.

The ANP Chief said Pakhtuns were by nature anti-imperialists but they also considered the Afghan refugees their brothers. He warned of serious consequences if acts of sabotage were not controlled. He wondered as to how the Pakistan Government could call itself an Islamic one when an un-Islamic acts like bomb blasts took place under its very nose in a funeral procession. Wali Khan remarked that Pakhtuns knew how to avenge their martyrs. He thanked all the people who participated in his father's last rites along with the governments of Afghanistan, the Soviet Union and India for sending their representatives at his burial ceremony. [passage omitted]

Paper Condemns Bombings at Jalalabad Funeral

BK021504 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu
24 Jan 88 p 2

[Editorial: "Was It an Act of the CIA?"]

[Text] Fifteen persons were killed and more than 20 injured as a result of the bomb blasts that occurred one after the other on the occasion of the burial of the late Khan Abdul Ghafar Khan in Jalalabad. These explosions took place in a parking lot near Shahi Bagh in Jalalabad where the red shirt leader was to be buried. It should be noted that the funeral was being held a few hundred yards away from the site of the explosions where many important personalities from Afghanistan and Pakistan, including the vice president of India, were present. According to some reports, during the address of the Afghan leader, Dr Najibullah, the air was rocked with explosions. Many cars were blown up, buses were damaged, and parts of those buses, in which the bombs were planted, were hurled a long way.

Denying responsibility for these blasts, Afghan mujahidin circles have said that they were caused by Russian or KHAD agents to either infuriate the people or to create misunderstanding. The Afghan mujahidin have also claimed that all the rebel groups were advised not to disrupt the funeral procession of the late Badshah Khan from Towr Kham to Jalalabad and to suspend all their operations during that time. However, the statement of the leader of the seven-group alliance of the mujahidin placing responsibility for these blasts on KHAD agents or the Soviet KGB has increased suspicions and doubts. No sensible person would ever endorse this allegation. In view of the fact that the Afghan leader Dr Najibullah and various ministers of his cabinet, the vice president of India, which is an ally of the Soviet Union, and many important personalities were present close by the parking area, the chances of justifying an allegation of involvement by KHAD or KGB agents are remote. Any such blast could have been meant to assassinate any of these important people. Therefore, to say that these blasts were caused by either of these two agencies is ridiculous and meaningless.

Some political circles think that these explosions were caused by one of the Afghan mujahidin groups with the intention of assassinating Dr Najibullah. According to these circles, although the leader of the alliance of Afghan mujahidin groups had announced a cease-fire, there are no strict regulations among the various groups of mujahidin as in a professional army. Even a professional army may indulge in sporadic firing during a cease-fire. Therefore, despite the advice of the Afghan mujahidin leader, this act could have been carried out by a group of mujahidin. As far as we are concerned, the views of these political circles carry some weight and cannot be totally ignored.

Meanwhile, some diplomatic circles have put the responsibility for the deplorable Jalalabad explosions on the CIA. These diplomatic circles state that, taking advantage of the occasion of the burial of Badshah Khan, the United States wanted to assassinate important personalities in power from Afghanistan and India. In this way, it could create confusion and place the blame very easily on the mujahidin. Its plan, however, did not materialize.

In any case, whether this act was committed by the CIA or by one of the mujahidin groups, any amount of condemnation seems inadequate. To make a funeral gathering the target of sabotage is an indecent and inhuman act. Such acts at the funeral of a person who spent his entire life serving the Pakhtun community is extremely shameful and condemnable.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Views Treaty With India, Polls

BK300924 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 30 Jan 88

[Text] Before leaving Rashtrapathi Bhavan [President's House] for the airport [at the end of his 6-day visit to India], President Jayewardene told newsmen that he is confident that the election process for the provincial councils in Eastern and Northern Provinces will be completed as per schedule by the mid year. About the presidential election in Sri Lanka, he said it will be held by early January next year.

Replying to a question, the Sri Lankan president said that the draft of the treaty presented by him on relations between the two countries is being considered by India. The next round of talks on the draft treaty will be held in a few month's time, he added.

Mr Rajiv Gandhi also told newsmen that the draft treaty presented by Sri Lanka is being looked into. He said in principle we have no objection to the treaty. About the talks with Mr Jayewardene and his ministers Mr Gandhi said these covered a wide range of problems and progress was made on just about every front.

Jayewardene Speech on Separatists, Elections

BK020819 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0655 GMT 2 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 2 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene on Sunday ceremonially declared open the national youth centre gifted by the Japanese Government to the national youth services council at Mahajagama, a suburd of Colombo and said "it is 40 years since India won her independence, but January 26 is considered as the date on which she became free and every year a head of state from a friendly country is invited to be chief guest at the celebrations", today's 'DAILY NEWS' reported.

Speaking on the occasion the president said that from the earlier speeches they had learnt much about the youth movement. [passage omitted]

He did not think he should talk further about this but would like to talk about his trip to India. He and Mrs Jayewardene visited India as chief guests at this year's Republic Day celebrations. "It is 40 years since India won her independence, but January 26 is considered as the date on which she became free and every year a head of state from a friendly country is invited to be chief guest at the celebrations", he said. [passage omitted]

The president said they were in India for five days. He and Mrs Jayewardene visited Agra and Bharatpur for two days as Mr Rajiv Gandhi had to be away to address meetings in Tripura in north east India near Assam as an election was on. The president went on to say that the two sides held talks which were of great importance. They talked about the problems of the refugees, Sinhalese, Tamils and Muslims. They talked about them without any discrimination. For all citizens of this country are equal. Some of them have come to India and some to the south of Sri Lanka.

They also considered how to curb the militants in the north and east. Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Indian ministers feel that it would not be long before they are completely wiped out, probably before March or April. "They told me that some people in India are against Indian soldiers coming to Sri Lanka and dying. 500 to 600 have already died and thousands injured.

Before the Republic Day parade, the gallantry award of 'Pajam Vir Khakja' was presented to the widow of Major Ramaswamy Parameshwaran who had fought valiantly in Sri Lanka and died. Looking at her face, one could not but feel sorry. We are aware that Indians are sacrificing their lives here. Whether it be a Sri Lankan or an Indian, all are human beings and we should be sorry when they die in this manner. We should put a stop to this.

Some people are blaming India. It is wrong to do so. It is only a few countries that send their men to fight to protect independence of another country.

Today our army is not fighting in the north and east. If the need had arisen for them to do so, nearly 700 to 800 would have died. Today not a single of our soldiers has died. It is the Indians who are sacrificing their lives and it is our duty to thank the Indian forces for their services.

I do not know whether anyone will endorse what I say but as the elected president of this country I thank and express my honour to India.

Rajiv Gandhi told me that if I wanted he would withdraw the Indian troops immediately. He said "It is you who had asked me to come".

The president went on to say: "That is true. I take the full responsibility for it. I told my cabinet later. Nobody opposed it then." If anyone is opposed to it they could leave the party.

It is because of this decision that we were able to bring our armed forces to the south, I received information that there would be a similar campaign in the south. Whether it is a Sinhalese, Tamil or Muslim a terrorist is a terrorist. There is no difference. They are killers. They have no sympathy, no compassion, no religion. It became essential to bring our forces to the south not to fight but to protect the people.

Several villagers, leaders and our members of parliament have asked for such protection. If India did not come to our assistance at that time, we could have taken Jaffna but several would have been killed.

A war is a war whether we win or lose or they die or we die. The world would have got angry with us saying we are killing citizens of our country. When India did so, nobody blamed them.

It is our youth who were dying and it is our country that suffered. India is spending millions on this war. We cannot afford to do so. We can do so if we stop all other things, like the youth movement, increasing the salaries of public servants, etc. The salary increase cost rs. 2 billion. Even if we stopped those things we would have been able to fight this war only with great difficulty.

While fighting a war in the north we had to fight a war in the south also. As Mr Thondaman was in support of us, his unions were assisting us—and our unions too were strong, there has been no trouble in the central region, except for a few sporodic strikes.

Today if there is peace in this country, except for sporadic acts of terrorism here and there, it is because I invited the Indian peace keeping force. Otherwise there would have been a bloody revolution. When time goes on even our opponents would realise this.

Today the opposition is trying to gain an advantage from this situation. One could gain an advantage, because the accord, signed in July, has not been properly implemented. This was due to the fault of the terrorists. Rajiv Gandhi told me that everyone of them was accepting the accord. The LTTE and Prabhakaran accepted it for a month. The other groups accepted this and they were pardoned and they wish to contest. [sentence as received] When Prabhakaran also accepted the accord there was peace in the country. The Buddhists began to visit Jaffna and Nagadipa. But, suddenly the LTTE went back on their word. It is because this accord was violated that there is all this trouble.

We must try to implement the accord fully. Our government has done everything on its side. We have brought in laws. We have brought laws to set up provincial councils, laws to hold elections to these councils.

We confined our army to barracks and asked the home guards to surrender their arms. But the terrorists have violated the accord. The Indian Army came here as a peace keeping force. But they had to fight a war. Before long this war would be ended.

The president said that he hoped to hold provincial council elections in the entire country in March or April. Get prepared for them. The youth could come forward. They could participate in the administration. These provincial councils will enjoy wide powers. There will be more decentralisation of functions then before. These councils could elect their cabinet of ministers and chief minister and they could develop their areas.

When these elections are held the UNP will field more youth as candidates. They could participate in the administration of their areas. There is no need for them to take guns into their hands. Democracy and elections are non-violent campaigns. There is no killing, fighting or abuse but rule by discussion, writing and negotiation. Such rule is democratic rule and that is the system that you would inherit in the south. I wish to tell the youth in the south give up your guns, your bombs. You cannot win. You will not be allowed to win. You should not win. It is not a human campaign but an animal campaign. This is where is India too. Not only there but it has spread throughout the world.

In India when Mr Gandhi was addressing a meeting in Tripura, 17 persons were killed by terrorists. There are elections but there is also terrorism. There is terrorism in Punjab. There is the Naxalite campaign. So, it is not surprising to see terrorism in this country.

Especially because there was a war in the north and east, they could get guns, bombs, use sophisticated weapons. When youth get arms into their hands, they like to use them. We know the individual who killed Harsha Abywardene. He will be apprehended soon. He walked the streets, fearlessly because he was carrying a gun in one hand and a bomb in the other. With guns and bombs, they become big people [word indistinct]. Our aim is to convert such people to the other side. This country is used to democracy.

It is our party which introduced democracy to this country. We elect governments by the ballot. Invite the youth of the south, the youth of the other areas to give up arms, become human beings, follow the words of the Buddha. That is the message of this [word indistinct]. Help to develop this movement and ensure the building to good citizens and a healthy nation, the president concluded.

Police, IPKF Repulse Attack on Police Station

BK020837 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0815 GMT 2 Feb 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Feb 2 (LANKA PUWATH)—A four hour mortar attack on the Eravur police station in Sri Lanka's Batticaloa District was repulsed last night by the Sri Lankan police and the Indian peace keeping force (IPKF), official sources told LANKA PUWATH. There were no casualties to the police or the IPKF. Casualties to terrorists are not known.

Official sources said that the terrorists commenced their intermittent mortar fire at the Eravur police station, about 15 kilometres north of Batticaloa town at 2010 hours (local time) yesterday. The police and the IPKF returned fire and the terrorists were forced to withdrawn around midnight.

The Eravur police station has in the past been the target of several LTTE terrorist attacks, some of them bloody ones. In all of them the terrorists have been forced to withdraw after getting the worst of the exchange of fire.